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WEEKLY

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CROATIA'S ON TARGET

WILY Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic claims that his team is on target for the club's biggest season yet.

Yesterday Rozic said: "The team is a little further advanced in preparations than it was last year."

BY KEITH GILMOUR

"We are tidier at the back but we will have a very big test against Marconi in the State Bank Cup final on Sunday."

Although Rozic is very happy with the excellent Marconi Stadium surface, he reckons that Marconi has an advantage in that it will be playing on its own home pitch.

Defender Ante Rumora has arrived back in Sydney and has embarked on his fitness quest campaign.

President Tony Basic and his committee are still strengthening the squad.

"Midfielder Ivan Petkovic is at present playing with the Croatian club Zadar in the Yugoslav Second Division."

"We expect him to arrive in May. He will of course be completely match fit," Mr Basic said.

Purchases

Croatia has bought well since last season. Goalkeeper Anthony Franken came from Canberra City for \$12,000, winger Robbie Slater from Blacktown City (\$15,000), de-

fender Ray Viletstra from Wollongong City (\$10,000) and midfielder Mark Jones (Newcastle \$6,000).

There was a side benefit for Blacktown in the Slater deal.

Goalkeeper Steve Watson, listed at \$8,000, changed hands also, valuing the Slater deal at \$23,000.

And there is more good news for the fans.

Zelko Jurin, who went to Italy and Switzerland in the off-season, had a run last Sunday.

Jurin has not yet been contracted to the club, but it looks as if ruffled feathers could now be settling.



ALAN DAVIDSON... settled at last.

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State Bank Cup
Victorian State League
Opens for Business
Queensland
States & Regions
World Football
British Specials

MELB. CROATIA DOUBLE - DAVIDSON AND WALLACE

FORMER Socceroo Alan Davidson made his debut with Melbourne Croatia on Saturday night, following his transfer from South Melbourne during the week.

Davidson was transferred for an alleged fee of \$22,000 after a prolonged wrangle with South Melbourne which went back to the beginning of the season.

South Melbourne transfer — listed 'Davo' some weeks ago following his failure to agree on terms for renewal of his contract.

The club demanded \$35,000 and Davidson took the matter to the Tribunal of the NSL and managed to reduce the fee to \$30,000.

The matter was settled so Davidson took the field in Croatia's red on Saturday night.

Melbourne Croatia is rumoured to have secured the services of former Scottish international Ian Wallace. At one stage Wallace was transferred from Coventry City to Nottingham Forest for in excess of \$A1 million.

Wallace has played in England and Portugal over the past two years.

CON NIKOLOPOULOS



THE SLICKERS' LAMENT

SYDNEY City's battle to stay in the top echelon of Australian football is being stretched to the limit.

Over the last few seasons the club has lost more than a team of top players. In fact 13 of the players who departed would go close to taking out an NSL title if they were together again as a group.

Have a look at this side:

TONY PEZZANO (\$11,000)

PETER FALCONER
(\$2500)

JIM CANT
(\$4000)

GERRY GOMEZ
(\$20,000)

JOHN SPANOS
(\$11,000)

JIM PATIKAS
(\$30,000)

PAUL KAY
(\$8000)

FRANK FARINA
(\$30,000)

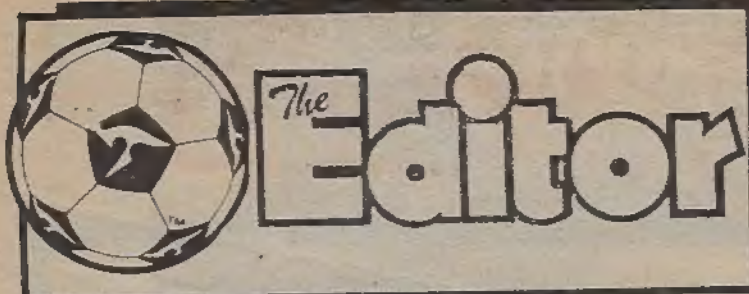
JOHN KOSMINA
(\$17,000)

DAVID MITCHELL
(\$20,000)

GRAEME FLETCHER
(\$8500)

Reserves: NELIO BORGES (\$6000), KEN BODEN (\$5000)

— KEITH GILMOUR



THERE is tremendous pressure on National League and State League clubs this year to promote the sport to its maximum advantage.

The best advertisement for Soccer is the standard of the product, and indications are generally favourable.

The National League has had its shake-ups and has responded well, but more is needed than that.

There always must be tailenders — but one or two weak clubs would destroy a deal of what is being rebuilt.

State League clubs have lost key players, but the better clubs have been able to top up with a good class of replacement player.

These leagues have had to take over and digest the left over clubs from the 1986 NSL, and in NSW and Victoria have probably grown beyond reasonable standards in respect of the size of their membership.

So, although many are against it and despite the fact that it may take more time, reductions may have to be considered somewhat down the track — provided of course that the NSL retains a 14 team format.

Meanwhile, with the NSW and Victorian Leagues beginning before the NSL, the public will have the chance to judge the extent of the improvements made by their clubs since last season.

Playing staff and coaching is one thing, but clubs must cover efficient administration, financial stability and an effective promotion and publicity arm, youth development and so on.

Queensland has seen Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions return to their local ranks.

In spite of some opinion to the contrary, Queensland must miss the outward improvement of key players.

This loss will be softened by the fact that both the City and Lions had rarely got their NSL acts together properly.

In fact Brisbane Lions has drawn so poorly that they would have to realistically look at their future position on the national stage, even if they received an opportunity to participate in future.

With South Australia, Adelaide Hellas is the shining light with the resources to make a comeback from the local competition.

Of the provincial centres Wollongong has a rough chance of returning to the top via the NSW State Bank League.

Newcastle is an outsider as is Inter Monaro, with Canberra City Olympians a prospect.

There is a tendency — if not a complete decision — to judge the financial viability of NSL member clubs by their ability to meet their obligations to the League only.

This selective financial analysis 'system' defies all logic and is on blot on the administration of the League.

All clubs MUST be forced to produce financial statements each year, fully audited by a qualified public auditor.

We have no intention of releasing our pressure in this direction until this commonsense project is compiled with.

And, when it occurs, there is the need to properly handle deficiencies with the clubs.

In NSW, rugby league clubs' financial positions are a commonplace mentioned in the public press.

The same should apply in Soccer. It will show aspiring clubs practical examples of what they have to beat.

On the promotion front St George, one of the lesser supported clubs, has promised to start the season with a major promotional night.

We wish them well, and also any other club that acts on a responsible decision to promote football entertainment to their crowds and invites in the public at large.

Address all correspondence to
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THE GREAT AND FAMOUS CLUBS BUILD FITNESS VERY SLOWLY

WITH Sydney Croatia, Marconi, Blacktown City and Melita all making last week's semi-finals of the NSW State Bank Challenge Cup, how noteworthy is this for the coming season.



LEN MCKENDRY... fitness comes first.

WEST END NSL First Round Fixtures Sunday March 29

WHITE HOT enthusiasm is building up towards the start of the National Soccer League, sponsored this year by West End Brewing Holdings Ltd.

St George has decided to get in first with a big promotion for the opening night match against APIA-Leichhardt.

A floodlit opener will be played at the St George Stadium, Rockdale on Friday night March 27.

Other first round encounters are:

ROUND 1 Sunday March 29, 1987

Footscray	v	Preston Makedonia
South Melbourne	v	Sunshine George Cross
Sydney City	v	Sydney Olympic
Sydney Croatia	v	Melbourne Croatia
Brunswick Juventus	v	Marconi
Adelaide City	v	Heidelberg United

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COMMENT

It seems to me highly significant.

Sydney Croatia and Marconi should be definite title contenders in the new National League, based on their player strength.

The only queries I have on both teams is their coaches.

Roberto Vieri is amongst the best players to come to this country.

On the other hand he has not done a great deal of coaching.

He has played at the highest club level in the world with great clubs and under famous coaches.

This will be of enormous help to him.

Nevertheless he still has to do it as a coach.

This season will be a great test for him.

The query on Croatia's Vedran Rozic revolves around his influence on his team as a player.

An injury late last season indicated the gap that develops in his team when he is not available to dominate the central defence, from where he also starts many of the attacking moves.

While ever Rozic is playing Croatia will be a title threat.

Continuity

For Blacktown and Melita, they will realise that early season Cup games are filled with shock wins by lesser

teams over higher division teams.

Last year, my Fairy Meadow team beat Blacktown, then in the National League, 2-0 in the Ampol Cup.

However, even then I knew that Fairy Meadow would face a season-long struggle to retain its State League status.

On the other hand, Blacktown and Melita obviously have talented players and they, along with Wollongong Wolves, will fight out supremacy in the NSW State League.

Any one of these would be a worthy entrant into the National League based on player strength, crowds, facilities and administration.

Wolves do not have their own ground unlike the other two, but they have a major compensation in that they represent a major Soccer centre.

Losses

Sydney City, as usual, are starting slowly and of course they have lost several key players.

Nevertheless, excellent players are still there in Robertson, O'Connor and Hooker at the back, Souness, De Marigny and McCulloch in midfield, plus 'play-anywhere' Murray Barnes.

The gifted Saad remains as the main striker.

This situation will not remain for long.

Eddie Thomson does have some money to



MIKE JOHNSON
ex English
First Division

spend as a result of his selling.

If he chooses as wisely as he has done in the past, the odds are that Sydney City will still be a competitive outfit this year.

The same might be said about St George.

St George, like City, are often slow starters.

Frank Arok and Thompson seek fitness ahead of results in the early season, as does Len McKendry of Juventus-Brunswick.

Mysterious

Greek giants, Melbourne Hellas and Sydney Olympic, are rather a mystery this season, with new coaches and player changes.

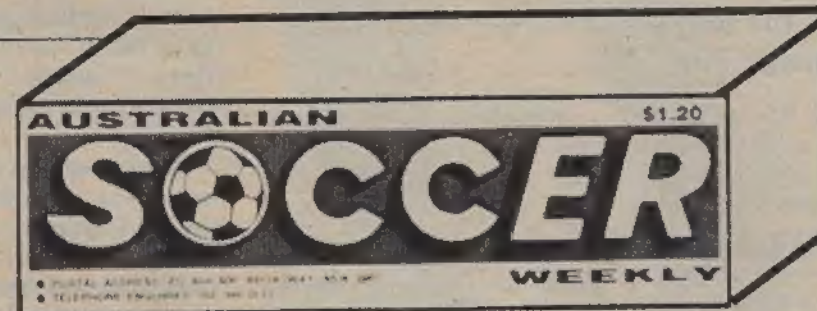
APIA has picked up some good players and should mount a threat to the title.

It is good to see a consolidation of top players in fewer sides.

This has to ensure a higher standard of Soccer at our elite club level.

Notwithstanding other problems, the greatest challenge for Australian Soccer is to raise the standard of football played by its best club teams.

They become a target for all others to aspire too.



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"To dream the impossible dream..."

NOT A SNOWFLAKE'S HOPE IN HELL!

MARCONI chief and National Soccer League deputy chairman Tony Labbozzetta is a traditionalist when it comes to dealing with the vexed question of the institution of an NSL summer season competition.

The matter has been listed for debate at the NSL Council of Clubs meeting to be held at the Marconi Club on Saturday, raising its head after being buried to all intents and purposes for many years.

It is not destined to go very far, but a couple of clubs will lend their support and one or two others may be fazed by it.

Mr Labbozzetta had this to say: "Summer Soccer is not practical, although in theory some aspects may appear to be of value."

"As a realist I am afraid that I must say that there is an overwhelming case for the traditional season that we have had down the years."

"Under it there is a minimum of shortcomings. We have to work on these to get the game where we all want it to be."

"Some of the suggested innovations merely amount to pie in the sky and the sooner they are forgotten the better, if we are to go ahead."

"There are people who present new ideas just for the sake of producing them. If the same efforts went into promotion then Soccer would certainly be the winner."

Pre-Season

Mr Labbozzetta also stated that he was prepared to be open-minded, adding that what he had seen had done nothing to convince him of a need to change.

He was quite prepared to go along with pre-season competitions, which he felt had their place in the scheme of things.

Obviously any late summer games would not worry the clubs that much, in that come hell or high water they would be playing practice matches anyway.

The answer to a lot of that problem is to develop or use good floodlit venues, rather than retreating from the question.

Football would often then be played in light evening breezes.

However the proponents of Summer Soccer are really talking about a spring and autumn split competition, with breaks for a deal of summer and winter.

The big beneficiaries would be the State Leagues and it would be easy to mount a case that they would take over in Sydney and Melbourne if NSW and Victoria could get their acts together properly.

SUMMER SOCCER IT'S A ROMANCE



PAUL WADE... Juve to South Melbourne

ASF View

There appears to be some idea in Australian Soccer Federation quarters that a winter break could be engineered to the advantage of the National team and other commitments.

No doubt Soccer must broaden its base in the Australian community as a spectator sport if it is to make the progress that has been forecast for it over the years.

But new spectators, especially from the younger generation, will have to be grafted on the present crowds. No other method could spell success.

Chopping off the keen, present day people will do nothing for the game at all.

There is precious little comparison between the German Bundesliga breaking its season for winter, and Australia doing so.

Much of Australia's winter climate can be equated with the Northern European summer.

Forecasting our ability to compete with summer cricket and tennis would be a hazardous matter indeed.

At least Soccer knows where it stands at present, although it has to do more to find out where it is going.

There is no way that the Australian Soccer Federation could pro-

vide adequate June/July competitive Soccer to cover the major cities and keep the turnstiles clicking.

— KEITH GILMOUR

Continued on Page 14



DAVID RATCLIFFE... Saints to Olympic

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\$5000 FEE FOR 'NO-SCORE' STRIKER

THE biggest gamble of the 1987 State League season is being undertaken by the North Shore club, Ku-ring-gai, who will fork out \$5000 to Avala for striker Glen Jeffery.

Jeffery left Ku-ring-gai two seasons ago and scored a number of goals in his first season with Avala.

But, playing last year in midfield, he did not collect even one.

The NSW Soccer Federation has just reduced Jeffery's fee from \$8000 to \$5000 on appeal.

A Ku-ring-gai club official said: "Glen is good enough and young enough to do a big job for us. It is quite clear how much faith

we have in him."

The club has a large squad, but unfortunately the two United States players trying out are too old for the under 19 grade.

At the same time some of the players who are under 19 appear promising enough to find places in the first grade squad.

Also endeavouring to win places are Paul Fagan and Cameron Pearce from Brisbane.

Coach Dennis Ford had his players trialling for four 30 minute halves against the Australian Institute of Sport squad at Parklea.

Last week they took on the New South Wales under 19 team.

Ku-ring-gai meets Manly-Warringah in the first round of the State Bank League at Cromer Park on Sunday week March 15.

It remains to be seen whether they can obtain their first State League win against Manly on that ground, even though present signs are most favourable.

— KEITH GILMOUR

WOLVES STRIKER GIRALDI STRIKES DOUBLE TROUBLE

WOLLONGONG City striker Robert Giraldi is hoping all his bad luck has gone for the start of the premiership.

— BY PHIL MURPHY

Giraldi missed State Bank Cup games because of a suspension hanging over his head from last season then injured a knee at training.

He then told coach John Fleming he couldn't play in the recent trial match against Fairy Meadow Italia because of a dislocated toe.

This latest injury happened at 2am one morning when he was setting off for work.

"I didn't want to turn the lights on and wake the wife and kids and stubbed my toe in a door-stop," Giraldi said.

The yell he came out with probably woke the whole neighbourhood.

Shapes Well

A young striker with a big future is on the fringe of Wollongong City's senior squad this season.

He is Kerry Davenport, who scored a swag of goals in the Bulli Under 19 side last season.

Davenport turned up at the Wolves' first training session before Christmas and has made it clear he has the dedication to do well.

He played a wide role in the trial against Fairy Meadow Italia but will obviously be given the chance to fill a central striker's role in reserve grade when the season starts.

At Bulli last season, club officials heaped praise on the youngster and are confident he will make the grade in the next year or so.

KICK-OFF TIMES SET

NSW Soccer Federation acting secretary Eric Arneil announced the starting time of matches this season as 1st grade: 2.30pm, 2nd grade 12.30; and 3rd grade 10.50 am.

These times will apply in the State Bank Soccer League and to all other divisions.

In the first round there will be a change for Inter Monaro v Melita Eagles at the Marco Polo ground in Queanbeyan on Sunday March 15.

First grade will be at 4pm and 2nd grade at 1.45pm

VALENTINE PARK WITH MIDDLE EAST FLAVOUR

PLANS are in progress for an international coaching course which would bring coaches from the arab emirates to spend almost one month on the course at Parklea.

— BY ALAN VEST

ARAB COACHES MAY COME

Isaac Benjamin, who is now a resident of Australia.

Mr Benjamin has had extensive coaching experience in the Arab Emirates, Iraq and England.

He is a qualified coach who has helped conduct the English F.A. international course with

Charles Hughes, the assistant national coach.

He has also coached Iraqi national teams and more recently one of the top teams in the Arab Emirates.

Mr Benjamin is also on the look out for a club team to coach in Australia and would like to talk to any interested clubs.

The course in question could be the forerunner to other courses for both coaches and players as more people see the value of the facilities at Valentine Park, Parklea.

NSW STATE BANK CHALLENGE CUP



Marconi destroys Eagles' tactics

NASTEVSKI HAS A 'NASTY' ON MELITA

THE elegant Zlatko Nastevski is destined to do wonders for Marconi, if he continues to show the near wizardry he displayed against Melita Eagles at Marconi Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Nastevski scored four in Marconi's 8-2 demolition of the Eagles, emphasising that his 22 goals to top score in the 1986 NSW State League were no fluke.

Marconi's one-touch football stamped them as Sydney's big hope for the 1987 West End National League, although Sydney Croatia are well in there also.

It was Marconi's third biggest win in senior football and was only bettered by a 10-0 win over Mooroolbark at the start of the National League and a 9-0 drubbing of Blacktown.

It is early days yet, but the win saw them safe in the State Bank Challenge Cup final at the same venue next Sunday at 4pm to meet the blossoming Sydney Croatia.

Marconi, who scored four delightful goals in either half, were never going to be denied.

They strung their passes together with both fore thought and speed, and finished with a tidiness that was a great credit to them and their maestro coach, Roberto Vieri.

Defence Lacking

It should however be pointed out that Melita's tactics were for too naive to use against a Marconi who were in such devastating form.

Craig Williams, Tony Cabassi and Billy Grif-

AULDEN BROWN DINNER

A Testimonial dinner will be held to recognise the service to the NSW Soccer Federation of Aulden Brown.

After twenty-four years of devoted service he has retired from his position as secretary. Ill-health unfortunately hastened his decision.

Aulden started playing Soccer as a lad with the Lane Cove Club and later became a referee.

He held a position on the Federation Management Committee firstly as the NSW Referees' delegate and then as a member of the Management Committee in his own right.

In 1963 he was appointed full-time Secretary to the NSW Soccer Federation.

The venue is the Croatia Soccer Club on Friday May 1.

All tickets, including dinner, drinks and dancing will be \$30 each. Please contact 629 1800 if you would like to attend.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

fiths were left to stem the tide, with occasional support from skipper Kenny Wilson.

No doubt coach Dennis Hoggart will have his men streaming forward against lesser opposition in the State Bank League season.

Against a rampant Marconi however such an attacking stance

amounted to nothing less than suicide.

The 4,000 odd spectators had a feast of football as well as goals.

It wasn't long before midfielder Ian Gray was probing away to make holes in the Eagles' defence.

In return the few shots that Melita could muster were from well out in the deep.

Nastevski slotted in Marconi's first from a glorious free kick, which he bent around the wall and delivered into the top left hand corner of the net.

David Lowe beat his marker along the left to cut the ball across for

Steve Maxwell to score and put Marconi two up after 20 minutes.

In a repeat of the second goal it was the quick breaking Robbie Wheatley who laid his pass on for Gray to score.

Fight Back

Melita fought back with a John Foxman goal. He was unmarked in front and quickly despatched Ray Farrugia's cross past Anthony Franken.

Then, lo and behold, Nastevski bobbed up again the slide Lowe's cross home from 10 metres out.

There was no tighten-



ZLATKO NASTEVSKI

ing of the Melita defence after the break, but their attacking attitude helped Wellbourn, Farrugia and Greg Brown go close.

Farrugia pounced in the 56th minute to bring the count to a respectable 4-2.

But thereafter Melita collapsed in a heap. Nastevski (two more) and two from Farina saw the final score mount to 8-2.

MARCONI: James, Carter, Henderson, Gomez, Wheatley, Lowe, Gray, Mason, Nastevski, Farina, Maxwell (Okon 80m).

MELITA: Pupovac, Williams, Cabassi, Griffiths, Wilson, Farrugia, Wellbourn, Farnsworth (Vial 23m), Sertbas, Brown, Foxman.

Referee: G. Power Crowd: 4325 (double-header).

Power

Then the strength of Croatia revealed itself in all its superb power.

Jennings came streaming into the box. The defence was at sixes and sevens as he rifled the ball home.

Jurin was sparking things up in a battle with Blacktown's tigerish left-back Darren Northam, who certainly shared the honours.

In the 84th minute the inevitable happened as Slater fired a rising shot past Watson, and he followed up with an encore two minutes later.

It was a gallant display by Blacktown, who fought valiantly for 70 minutes, but a lack of firepower let them down.

Croatia can look with satisfaction to a showing in which no real faults were revealed, with newcomers Anthony Franken, Ray Vlietstra and Mark Jones slotting well into the team pattern.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken, Rezo, Vlietstra, Rozic, Jennings, Savor, Jones, Odzakov, Slater, Arnold, Lamond (Jurin 60m).

BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson, Maier, Sterry (Sharpe 78m), Reynolds, Northam, Jeffrey, Kay, Ellem, Naumov (Thornthwaite 46m), Sandy, van Blerk.

Referee: R. Lorenc. Crowd: 4325 (double-header).

SLATER ONCE AGAIN AS DEMONS EXIT

ROBBIE SLATER knocked in two goals to lift his tally to five in two games as Sydney Croatia finally coasted to a 3-0 win over Blacktown City at rain-swept Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

the professional Zarko Odzakov barely missed with a left foot shot that flashed across the face of goal like a shooting star.

Then came the change that saw Zelko Jurin on for Manis Larmond, and Croatia was in business.

A combination of judgment and luck saved the Demons in the 58th minute.

It seemed that the power of Odzakov's drive had beaten Watson, but he had the presence of mind to grab the ball behind him, with referee Richard Lorence ruling that it had not crossed the line.

By the 65th minute the alert Watson was forced to save twice — on one occasion at the expense of damage to his own face.

Four minutes later Blacktown had another chance to take the lead.

This time Brett Thornthwaite, on for Bobby Naumov, scooted up the left wing to cross low.

Unfortunately for the

The ginger-thatched winger scored in the 84th and 86th minutes after left-back Graham Jennings had the very rare satisfaction of putting one away in the 70th minute.

It was a case of game, set and match when Jennings scored, but up until then Blacktown had given their all.

In fact they matched Croatia in most phases of the game except in finishing, although they had to cover more ground to do so.

The game did not possess either the bite or the guile of the earlier Marconi-Melita clash, but for all that Blacktown should have grabbed the lead.

How Demons' skipper Paul Kay contrived to miss goaling from an Adam Sandy pass from right in front in the 43rd minute, not even he would know.

Fighters

But it was Croatia who came out fighting after an evenly matched first half.

Slater was quickly on the end of a low awkward shot that had Steve Watson going down to kill.

Within two minutes

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or the Club's Secretary

JOHN CURRAN ☎ (b) 349 5105

(a.h.) 712 1245

BATTLE OF STYLES

A classic battle of tactics is certain to develop in Sunday's State Bank Challenge Cup final at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Sydney Croatia favours plenty of long balls, whereas Marconi is excelling in one touch short passing bursts.

It all adds up to the likelihood of a clash which will be worth travelling countless miles to see.

The respective teams closely reflect the football expertise of their coaches.

Croatia's Rozic favours through balls and Vieri will have his men primed to cut them out.

Marconi, reinforced

by judicious player purchases, is showing all the nimble Roberto Vieri touches in their movements.

The pressure will be on Marconi's veteran skipper Tony Henderson to continually cover against the speed of Graham Arnold, Robbie Slater, Zelko Jurin and Manis Lamond.

Croatia will certainly have to find a counter to Zlatko Nastevski, but that task is not beyond them.

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CUP FINAL

MARCONI STADIUM NEXT SUNDAY

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v

MARCONI 4PM

PLAY OFF FOR THIRD PLACE

BLACKTOWN CITY

v

MELITA EAGLES 2PM

State Bank



The Victorian Newsreel

EARLY START THIS WEEKEND IN VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE

THE first round of the Victorian State League kicks off this weekend, three weeks earlier than the rest of the state competitions.

Due to Green Gully being relegated from the NSL, the AIS being accepted to play exhibition matches in the State League and the two sides promoted from first division, Oakleigh and Broadmeadows, there will be more sides than ever before in the State League, meaning more matches and an early start to the season.

As predicted, this season promises to be quite even and the first round will be a good guide.

Caulfield and Thomas-

BY PHIL DIAMATARIS

town should fight out a draw as Thomastown is still trying to fit in its new squad members. Rumour is that Bobby McGuinness may be ready to take his place in the Thomastown line up.

Springvale should win away from home against troubled Frankston Pines, while South Oakleigh is bound to be treated with little respect against St Albans.

St Albans is looking good for a shot at the championship and these are the games that must be won if they are seriously considering the top spot.

Polonia Maribyrnong should be too strong for the erratic Western Suburbs, while Croydon should pick up both points against newcomer Broadmeadows.

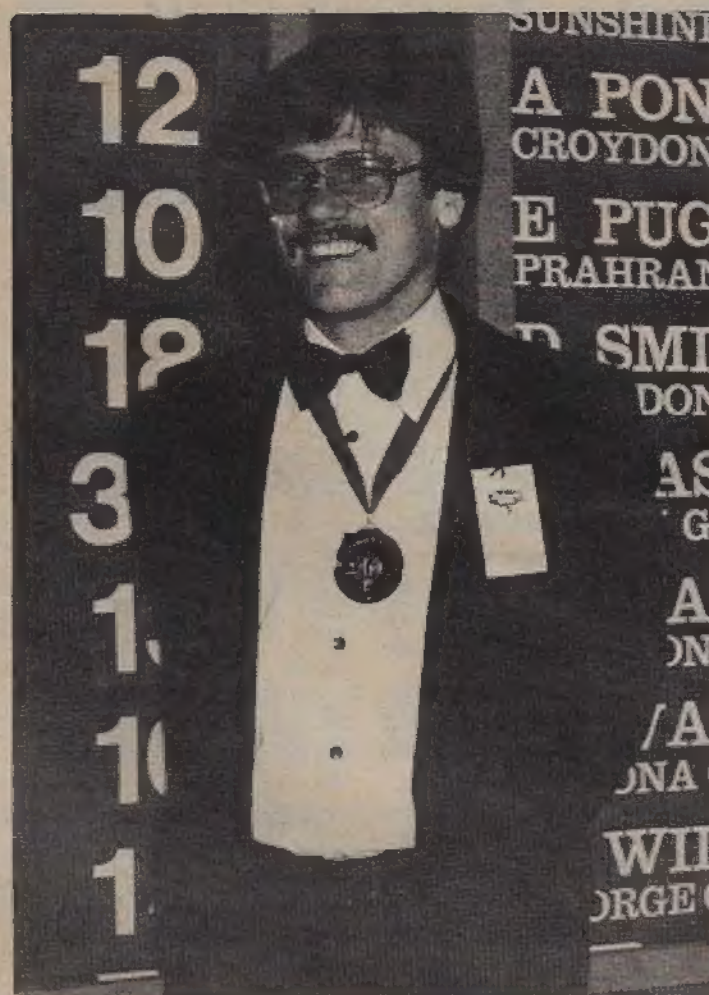
Morwell has the honor of playing against the AIS first, but won't be travelling to the ACT as the fixture indicates.

I am going for the AIS to give Morwell a shock to start off their 1987 season.

A strengthened Falkner which has been shopping feverishly during the closed season will go into their game against Northcote the favourite but a draw is a more likely result.

Northcote is very fit and after their showing against Thomastown in the 3EA Charity Shield will be a threat to a top four team this season.

Box Hill will be Green Gully's first victim as Gully strives to win back its place in the NSL. But Gully won't have it all their own way as Box Hill are shaping up as a very competent outfit.



BOBBY MCGUINNESS... Thomastown player.

**MELBOURNE'S
1987
KICK OFF**

THE VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE season kicks off this weekend, and all clubs involved are set to take part in one of the most even years yet.

Most sides have recruited well, with some sides recruiting minimally, trying to consolidate on a good 1986 season.

This could be teams like Caulfield, Western Suburbs, Oakleigh and Croydon's downfall — but the situation has brought things up to an even keel.

THE first preliminary round in the Victorian League Cup gets underway on Saturday week March 14. Kicks off are at 3pm and here is the draw:

Lalor United v Albion Rovers, Altona Gate v Weeribee, Clifton Hill v North Geelong, Bell Park v Westgate, Doncaster Rovers v Knox City, Williamstown v Coburg, Ringwood United v Essendon City, Mooroolbark v Waverley City, Bulleen v Ferntree Gully, Holland Park v Sunbury United, Rosanna v Langwarrin, Altona City v Hamlyn

Rangers, Keysborough v North Dandenong, Port Melbourne v Dandenong City, Karingal United v Yallourn, Pascoe Vale v Hawthorn Citizens, Nunawading City v Keilor, Clarinda v Prahran City.

BYES: Yarraville, Springvale United, Sandringham City, Ringwood City, S.M. Morialloc, Boronia, Moreland Park Rangers, West Brunswick, Seaford United, Melbourne, Diamond Valley United, Doveton, Prahran, Moorabbin City.

**Sat. March 14
3pm: Provisional
League Cup
First Preliminary
Round**

Mitcham v Wantirna, Ivanhoe City v Waverley United, Ascot St Marks v Ardeer, Burwood United v Cranbourne, Mulgrave v Brunswick City, Lyndale United v Kensington United, Mossfield v Carrum United, Batman United v Monash University, Regent v Monbulk, Dingley United v Meadow Park,

Riversdale v South Yarra, Ringwood Rovers v Eagles United, Clayton v Melton.

BYES: Ascot Vale City, South Springvale, Skye Rovers, Central City, Lalor, North Sunshine, Berwick City, Chelsea, Forest Hill, Uni of Melbourne, West United, Springvale Condors, Port United, Altona United, Ballarat, Brintons, Malvern City, St Kilda, Balaclava.

**Sat. March 14
1pm: Provisional
League Res. Cup**

**First Preliminary
Round**

Batman United v Mulgrave, Riverside v St Kilda, Ringwood Rovers v Malvern City, Brunswick City v Skye Rovers, Burwood United v Forest Hill, Springvale Condors v North Sunshine.

BYES: Ascot St Marks, Central City, Clayton, Carrum United, Meadow Park, South Yarra, Melton, Ardeer, Berwick City, Monash University, West United, Eagles United, Uni of Melbourne, Waverley

United, Mossfield Rangers, Ascot Vale City, Mitcham United, Regent, Ivanhoe City, Cranbourne, Lalor, Lyndale United, Balaclava, Monbulk, South Springvale, Wantirna.

**Sat. March 21
3pm: Provisional
League Cup
First Main Round**

Lyndale United or Kensington United v Ringwood Rovers or Eagles United, Central City v Regent or Monbulk, Mitcham United or

Wantirna v Mulgrave or Brunswick City, Lalor v North Sunshine, South Springvale v Skye Rovers, Ivanhoe City or Waverley United v Berwick City, Chelsea v Forest Hill, Uni of Melbourne v West United, Batman United or Monash University v Springvale Condors, Port United v Riversdale or South Yarra, Altona United v Dingley United or Meadow Park, Mossfield or Carrum United v Ballarat, Clayton or Melton v Brintons, Ascot Vale City v Ascot St Marks or Ardeer, Malvern City v Burwood United or Cranbourne, St Kilda v Balaclava.

The Divisions

CONTINUING our look at the Victorian scene, competition in the four Victorian League divisions is also starting to be very competitive to say the least.

In First Division Doncaster Rovers, Nunawading City and Knox City look to be the strongest contenders for the title.

Doncaster and Nunawading did well last year and only just missed out on climbing to the State League. And Knox City this year have signed ex-Socceroo Peter Ollerton and experienced Alan Munro which will bring in the needed balance of youth and experience to push for promotion.

A dark horse for a strong challenge is Sunbury. Peter Boyle is the new coach with NSL and State League experience and is very confident.

BY PHIL DIAMATARIS

Bobby Toal, the ex-George Cross, Green Gully and Northcote player, is keen on transferring to Sunbury together with Hugh Stewart and Martin Caterson.

Essendon City and Bulleen should not be forgotten as well.

In the past two seasons both teams have been promoted twice, climbing all the way up from Third Division, so if the trend continues '88 could see them both in State League.

**Form on Board
In Division Two Ham-**

lyn Rangers and North-Geelong look like fighting out the title.

Surprisingly both teams have shown excellent pre-season form, with Hamlyn recently winning the pre-season Geelong Cup.

Dandenong City will also be pushing for the climb to First Division,

but consistency, which has not been one of Dandy's strongest assets, will have to improve.

Clifton Hill could be the surprise package, though Soc Nicholidis, the ex-South Melbourne Hellas star, is now at the coaching helm and advises that his team does have some surprises in store.

Mooroolbark, who last season had their first piece of success since they were relegated from

the NSL, go into the Second Division, being the 1986 Third Division champion.

They Barkers will be a big threat but have lost a few players who have been snapped up by State League clubs. It looks like there are too many holes to plug.

Division Three is open slather. Newcomer Clarinda looks to have the goods but will be pressured by Ferntree Gully, Moorabin and Bell Park.

Third Division last year was very close as only 11 points separated third top from third bottom.

This is why Tony Brown's Port Melbourne looks set for a good season also.

Third bottom was Port's 1986 result so eleven more points may see them close to a top four position this year. And the product is certainly there to turn out the goods.

SMART

In the Fourth Division Hawthorn United should make amends for last year's end of season slump and at least be one of the two sides to achieve promotion into the Third Division.

The other team should come from either Seaford Utd, Holland Park or Langwarrin.

STATE LEAGUE '87

ROUND 1 SATURDAY MARCH 7th

Caulfield City v Thomastown
Frankston Pines v Springvale City
St Albans v Oakleigh

SUNDAY MARCH 8th 1987

Western Suburbs v Maribyrnong
Broadmeadows v Croydon City
AIS v Morwell Falcons
Falkner v Northcote City
Box Hill v Green Gully



PETER OLLERTON... with Knox City.

VICTORIA'S BUFFALO GOLD CUP 1987

'BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE' EGAN ON THE BALL TO TOP THE CHART

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas cruised to the semi-finals of the Buffalo Gold Cup 1987, with a comfortable 4-1 win over Green Gully.

Unperturbed by the absence of key midfielders, Paul Wade, away on his honeymoon, and Richard Miranda on a business trip, South Melbourne overpowered their opponents and maintained their unbeaten record in the night series.

CON NIKOLOPOULOS

Brian Garvey opted for Danny Crainic and Garry McDowell to fill the vacant midfield spots. The move paid dividends because both players figured prominently in the rout.

South Melbourne went into the lead after 15 minutes when Stuart Stevenson relayed a header by George Kalogeros into the net.

Danny Wright netted the second goal for South Melbourne to maintain his goal-a-game record since he joined the team from Brisbane Lions.

Green Gully found a bit of breathing space in the 47th minute when Steve McLelland pulled one back but wee-man Charlie Egan dashed their hopes for recovery four minutes later when he netted South's third goal and his fifth for the competition, thus assuming the leadership of the goalscorers chart.

Two minutes before full-time George



CHARLIE EGAN... goalscoring touch.

Kalogeros connected with a cross by Stuart Stevenson, to produce the final scoreline.

Trimboli in

George Cross also surged to the semi-

at Croatia-Glenorchy and senior sides at Clarence.

He replaces the club's previously announced coach, Welshman Les Tibbott, who once played for Ipswich Town in the English League.

Calies say that they intend taking proceedings against Tibbott for breach of contract.

finals of the Cup with a slender 1-0 win over Saint Albans, in the second game of the night.

Trimboli scored the winning goal after eight minutes and Geogie fought gallantly to keep the score until the final whistle.

Meanwhile, Footscray were annihilated by Box Hill, 0-4, in a game of academic importance.

Footscray coach Dragoslav Sekularic drove his message to his com-

mittee, about the immediate need to buy established players, by fielding a number of young, inexperienced players.

Phil Griffin led the onslaught with two successive goals in the opening quarter of the game. Dean Hennessey added the third goal and Alan Roodhouse sank Footscray with the fourth goal.

In the second game of the night, Brunswick Juventus overcame the Fankston Pines side 1-0,

with a goal by Mehmet Durakovic in the second half of the game.

The teams to qualify for the semis of the Buffalo Gold Cup are: South Melbourne, Heidelberg United, Melbourne Croatia and George Cross.

The pairs of the Semi-finals will be decided on Wednesday night, immediately after the conclusion of the postponed games: South Melbourne -Vs- Croydon City and Melbourne Croatia -Vs- Saint Albans.

CARNEVALE PLEASED AT PROGRESS

TASMANIAN club Hobart City-Azzurri, newly-promoted to the Cadbury State League, has signed a number of new players and has shown impressive form in pre-season friendlies.

BY VAN DIEMEN

City beat Tasmanian champion Ulverstone 2-0 with goals by Neil Bishop and Nick Marino, and Devonport City 1-0 with a goal by John Cionci, recently signed from Rapid.

Neil Bishop joined the club from Taroona, while other signings include Karl Brightman and Duncan Swift from Howrah, and Brett House from Metro-Claremont.

The big signing, however, was Carlo Ambrosino from Inter-Monaro.

Another interstate player joining City is Johan Hosenbirk from Victoria, the former Box Hill and Wilhelmina player.

Dual coaches at City, Remo Carnevale and Otto Klaus, are very pleased with progress, while president George Marino said that City would have a very competitive team.

Croatia-Glenorchy beat Juventus-Pioneer 3-2 in a pre-season friendly played at the Rokeby High School ground recently.

Neil Thomas, John McIntyre and Alistair Payne scored for Croatia, while Romeo Fredianni and Ian Parker hit the Juventus goals.

The groupings for the Cascade Summer Cup pre-season competition in Hobart are: Cadbury League section — Group 1 — Caledonians, Hobart City, Juventus-Pioneer, Olympia-WPL; Group 2 — Rapid, Croatia-Glenorchy, White Eagles, Howrah; Rothmans League section — Group 3 — Caledonians, South Hobart, Metro-Claremont, PCL United; Group 4 — Taroona, Kingbor-

ough, Nelson United, University.

Caledonians have appointed Karl Pless as senior coach for the 1987 Cadbury State League season.

Pless has the Level III coaching certificate and has coached junior teams



HOBART CITY-AZZURRI coach Remo Carnevale.

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ADELAIDE CITY'S APPROVAL FOR SUMMER SOCCER IS CONDITIONAL

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BY TOM MCKAIN

ADELAIDE City will back moves to play Summer Soccer in the West End National League — if the games are at night.

Moves to appear suicidal if games are continued to be scheduled for the afternoon.

The plan was scrapped when first mooted years ago, but it is apparent that whenever a new batch of officials appear they come up with 'new ideas'.

"We are all for a change if it benefits Soccer," said City coach Zoran Matic.

"But it would be madness to play in the afternoon heat, and this we will oppose."

"Turn on night games and it could be a different story."

"Fans are more likely to show up in 25 degrees instead of being rainswept in winter conditions."

The night games sound feasible — but how many clubs have lights? City hasn't, and would have to switch to Hindmarsh Stadium, although Matic suggests that early night kick-offs would wipe out the need for lights, but agrees there could be some gloomy days.

Clubs forced to switch grounds would lose out on clubroom revenues.

Advocates of Summer Soccer point to the tennis circuit where players race around under the sun.

But they forget the tennis "machines" are full-time professionals.

While the change in season would bring us into line with most of the rest of the world — and make it easier for overseas teams to tour here and the Socceroos to go overseas — again our players are not full-time pros.

They cannot always get time off work, nor can they afford to miss out on wages, and run the risk of being sacked.

While Summer Soccer has provided popular pre-season competitions in most States, the game is a winter sport, and if you look at the grassroots — as we are always being told to do — would the schools and juniors be able to have their season switched to summer?

Clubs find it hard enough to survive a season with the present set-up without having to run

teams in summer and winter.

Cricket, golf and tennis occupy the media's attention in the summer, and claims that Soccer would get more exposure is a myth.

Fans would be more likely to stay home to watch one-day cricket, tennis and golf in preference to sweating it out on the outer at a Soccer ground.

Any change from the present set-up would be fatal.

MIKE WELLS IS WELL SETTLED IN ADELAIDE

SOUTH Australian Director of Coaching Mike Wells is well settled in Adelaide and won't be moving.

He confirmed this to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY following earlier information that he was supposed to be interested in the Australian Institute of Sport Soccer coach's post.

"I was never an applicant, and in fact I have just signed a three-year contract with the South Australian Soccer Federation", he explained.

Wells has been invited back to Brazil late in the year to be involved in a 45 day advanced coaching course with former Brazilian national coach Zagalo.

Master coach Zagalo was in charge of Brazil

when they won the World Cup in 1970.

The South Australian coach was in Brazil in 1983.

At that time he secured diplomas from both the Brazilian Football Academy and the University of Rio de Janeiro.

Both Wells and Ron Smith of the AIS have FIFA qualifications obtained in Oceania courses.

Mike Wells is currently working on his plans to carry South Australian coaching through from now to the end of 1989.

— KEITH GILMOUR

GREG SMITH STRIKES BIG TROUBLE WITH BELSWANS

NEWCASTLE NEWS

AT least three - and possibly six - players who shared in Belmont-Swansea United's successful 1986 season will be missing from the Belswans' squad when the Northern NSW State First Division Premiership begins in April.

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

Belmont-Swansea, who edged out West Wallsend to win the 1985 premiership but lost the grand final by two goals to one to the same team, was runner-up to West Wallsend in the 1986 championship, but beat the Bluebells in the grand final in a penalty play-off after extra time.

But the winds of change were moving through the Belmont-Swansea camp and the club's astute coach, Greg Smith, is now considering his options for 1987.

Goalkeeper Robbie Kaiser, brother of Northern NSW Director of Coaching Ken Kaiser, has recovered from the ankle injuries he suffered in each of the past two seasons and has been cleared to join West Wallsend.

Kaiser will fill the void left by the Bluebell's keeper Craig Grills, who has signed for Newcastle Soccer Club to play in the NSW Federation's State Bank League.

Neville Power, who has given great service to

Highfields Azzurri, Adamstown Rosebud and Belmont-Swansea and who broke an ankle while making his mark with Newcastle Rosebud United, has returned to Adamstown.

Third on the list of those certain to leave the Belswans is defender Gary McIntosh, who has decided to retire.

But, there may be worse to come for Smith, with the anticipated retirement of Power's strong centre-back colleague Derek Bull, the expected transfer of

Dave Butchart to Austral United and the possible move of his midfield partner, Mark Walmsley, to Sydney.

Walmsley, a tireless worker and a solid tackler, has been training with Marconi, with the

aim of securing a place in the National League team's line-up.

Despite the departure of Robbie Kaiser, the Belmont-Swansea goal-keeping duties are in the capable hands of 22-year-old David Connor, who substituted for Kaiser in 1985 and 1986 and appears to have a bright future in the game.

Among the options at Greg Smith's disposal is to pair the tough Slav Laszic and reliable Doug Warne in the central defence, move Craig Jones into midfield and use Australian Under-16 representative Stephen Brown as a right-side striker.

However, Belmont-Swansea is believed to be negotiating with other players and the naming of Smith's final squad may still be some weeks away.

Meanwhile, Lake Macquarie City will have to cover the absence of the former Adamstown fullback, Ken Bevan, who will play this year with Weston Bears.

Steve Bajzars, who has recovered from a recent knee operation, has his sights on a higher plane as he trains with Sydney Olympic.

CANBERRA IMMIGRATION DEPT'S 'NO' TO PERUVIANS

CANBERRA City Olympians have run into Department of Immigration resistance to their plan to import two Peruvian players for the NSW State Bank League season.

The pair, 18-year-old sweeper Alexis Suarez and Sixto Gonzales, 23, a striker, were recommended to the club by coach and fellow countryman Augusto Palacios.

They have signed contracts with City, but the department has

ruled that Soccer players from Peru will not be granted visas to play unless they have represented their country.

It is an incredible ruling that would presumably allow City to bring in a 45-year-old has-been who played a game for Peru 20 years ago, but not youngsters with something positive to contribute to the future of the game in Australia.

City's negotiations with Immigration authorities are continuing.

GRAHAM COOKE

CHARLES PERKINS BATS FOR SOCCER

PUSH FOR 10,000 SEAT STADIUM IN CANBERRA

PLANS have been formulated for a 10,000-seat stadium for the exclusive use of Soccer in Canberra, the president of the ACT Soccer Federation, Charles Perkins, said.

"Negotiations are continuing, but I can say that the stadium will be based on one of the existing ovals," he said. "We are at present holding discussions to ensure that no other code is disadvantaged."

"I can confidently predict that we will have the oval this year."

"It will be a ground set aside for top matches, both in the local competition and games involving

the ACT and international touring sides."

The stadium proposal — a much needed shot in the arm for the sagging fortunes of the code in the national capital — would also include a licensed club to provide a social focal point for Soccer followers and a headquarters for ACT administration.

Perkins, who is also the ACTSF delegate to the Australian Soccer Federation, admitted that finding money for the project would be difficult, but cited Government assistance for the ACT Australian Football League in the building of its stadium in the suburb of Phillip, as a precedent.

GRAHAM COOKE

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THE QUEENSLAND REPORT

With Greg Russell



RUSS. STEWART... new home.

RUSS'S SOCCEROO PROSPECTS RISK

QUEENSLAND's lone Soccerroo representative Russell Stewart may have thrown away his national squad position by opting against a move south this season.

The 22-year-old Lions midfielder last week resigned for another 12 months with the Richlands club and has been taken off the transfer list.

Stewart was listed at \$15,000 when he was linked with a number of Sydney clubs, including St George and Olympic after he returned from the Soccerroos tour of China late last year.

Stewart said today his recent marriage and purchase of a new home in Brisbane had played a large part in his decision not to join fellow Lions team-mates Danny Wright and Steve Jackson in moving south.

"I'll probably go next year," he added.

Stewart will now play with Lions in the Queensland Soccer Federation's XXXX League competition and it remains to be seen whether Soccerroo boss Frank Arok rates that high enough for Stewart to maintain National squad form.

Stewart, a former young Soccerroo, is certainly hoping so.

"Obviously the standard of football is not going to be as strong as the National League, but form is a personal thing and it depends how you apply yourself," Stewart said.

"The XXXX League is going to be very competitive with every team trying to beat the two former NSL sides. There are quite a few Queensland games planned so I think there will be plenty of good football to keep me sharp."

Local Scene

While Stewart had been linked with a move south during the off-season, his re-signing with Lions did not come before considerable speculation about a local transfer.

Stewart's junior club, Mount Gravatt, which also plays in the XXXX League, is understood to have lobbied heavily for the midfielder to return to Dittmer Park. And is though Olympic United and Brisbane City were interested.

Although a midfielder in past years, and preferred by Arok at right-back, Stewart could spend much of this season as the Lions' sweeper.

He has told coach Col Bennett he wants to play central midfield, but that position is currently held down by his older brother, John.

But with Lions now missing a sweeper following Jackson's move, Bennett has turned to Russell Stewart to fill the void.

The youngster's vision and distribution make him an obvious choice for the role but whether he can remain satisfied and control his attacking urges is yet to be highlighted.

STOWELL IN A BIND OVER PERRY PARK FIJI CLASH

QUEENSLAND coach Bruce Stowell faces a formidable task in assembling a Maroons team to take on Rudi Gutendorf's Fiji in two test matches at Perry Park later this month.

Stowell has seen two key members of his side, striker Danny Wright and defender Steve Jackson, head south while those who have remained have only a few pre-season matches under their belts.

The XXXX pre-season tournament, which kicked off last week, is the official trials for the Queensland squad, but Stowell admits he almost certainly will have to stick with the majority of those players who have already proved themselves in the Maroon.

"I've got to go on past reputations. There just isn't enough time to have a good look at anyone else," he said.

But in saying that, the Queensland coach was quick to point out that his Maroons squad was far from a closed shop.

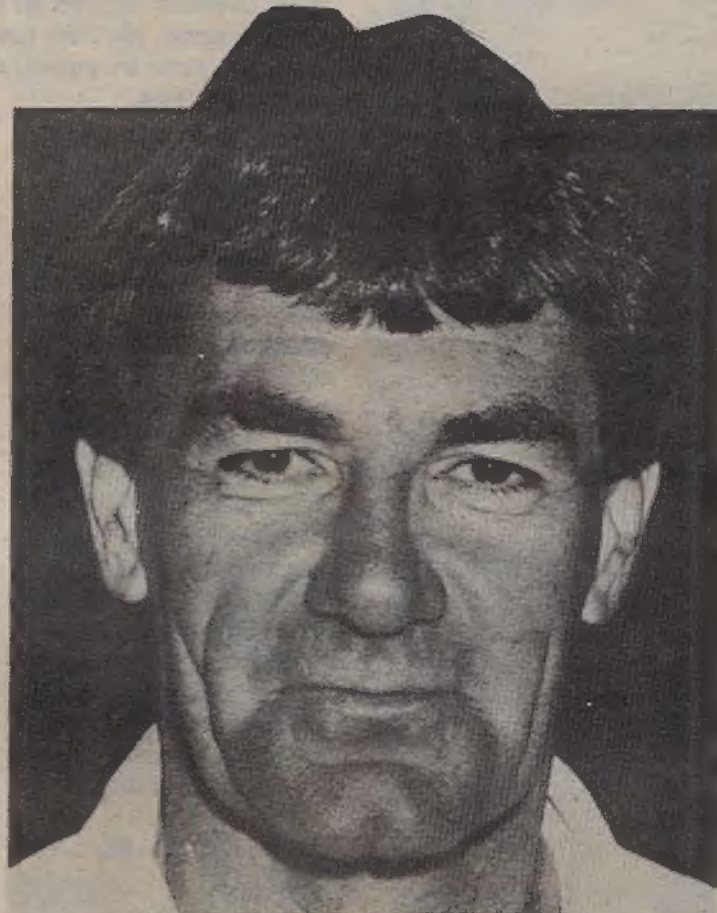
"Obviously there have got to be replacements

found for Danny and Jacko, but there are a few other players I have got in mind who weren't in the squad last year.

"Fiji are a robust, physical team and I think we have got to have players in our side who can stand up to that type of play. I am definitely looking for strong players," he added.

And that could mean a state team berth for bustling Coalstars strike Mark Brusasco. Pound for pound Brusasco is one of the strongest footballers in Brisbane. He also possesses a deceiving turn of speed and can unleash a fierce shot.

Lions' big defender Keith Marsh, the Rothman's Gold Medallist last year when he played at Grange Thistle, is another who could come into the squad if he performs well in the XXXX pre-season comp.



BRUCE STOWELL... has a headache over Fiji.

And other big men like Easts Phil Redmond and Jim McDonagh, Coalstars Ian Lawrie, Redlands' Barry Kelso, Rochdale's Steve

Donald and Olympic's Stephen Glockner should be spurred on to their best in the pre-season in the knowledge that places are there if they

can hit form.

Short Time

But picking the right squad is not Stowell's only problem for the Fiji game.

The XXXX pre-season tournament ends just four days before the first game and it seems any kind of training match is out of the question.

"I might name a squad a week before the XXXX final so at least we can have a training run together. But that is another reason for me to stick to the nucleus of last year's squad. At least they know each other and know how they should play."

"I would be asking to get beaten to pick a whole group of new players from the XXXX tournament and then just throw them in together against Fiji," Stowell said.

Queensland plays Fiji on Sunday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 25 while the tourists also will play another game later in the week, probably on the Gold Coast.

LIONS WIN THIRD RICHLANDS

BRISBANE Lions won their third consecutive World Wide Insulation Silver Boot final at Richlands last week — but not without a scare.

The former NSL team trailed Olympic United by two goals at the 40th minute and only inexperience from the Young XXXX League side cost them an upset victory.

Lions eventually won the match 3-2, a far cry from last year's final when they crushed Olympic 6-1.

And Lions finished the final with 10 men after Scottish winger Jim Morton was sent-off by referee Bill Monteverde. Morton was shown the red card, perhaps somewhat hastily after a tackle on Olympic defender Mike Makridakis, who made the most of an airy kick by the Scotsman.

Monteverde also handed out six yellow cards in a robust final. Those booked included Lions players Frank Lid-

dell, Russell Stewart and Richard Bassingthwaite and Olympic's Nick Moric, Andy Lambi and Roy Smyth.

Monteverde, rejecting criticism of his decisions afterwards said: "It's a shame to see players kicking each other like that so early in the season."

Olympic, whose team of plucky youngsters had eliminated grand final winners Coalstars and giant-killers Wynnum on the way to the final, drew first blood in the ninth minute.

After good work down the left by Arthur Photinos and Makridakis, a crossed ball was punched low by young keeper Jason Kearton, who was a stand-in for injured Lions custodian Rob Farrow.

Rebound

Kearton's punch fired the ball directly into Moric and it rebounded off the Olympic striker into the Lions net.

Olympic clung to the

narrow lead despite constant pressure from Lions, with the home team's best chance coming when a Bassingthwaite shot rattled the upright.

Olympic then took advantage of the confusion in the Lions team following Morton's 35th minute send-off to score a second goal. Smyth, Acacia Ridge's Irish striker who is trialling in the higher league, pushed through a delightful ball for Photinos to race away from the alarmingly slow Lions backline.

Photinos ran to the right of the goal and

angled his shot under Kearton, who had been too slow to narrow the angle.

Lions managed to pull a goal back just a minute from halftime when Olympic defender Bill Mylonas mis-kicked a clearance and Lions striker Brett Druery had the easy task of slotting the ball home.

It took Lions only seven minutes of the second half to draw level, and it was halftime substitute Jarrod Austin who played a key role.

Austin pressured Olympic defender Mick Cernaka on a Bassingthwaite cross, and be-

FINAL

tween the pair of them, the ball rocketed into the Olympic net — probably more off Cernaka than Austin.

Ahead

Lions were to hit the lead five minutes later but had to put the ball in the net twice before getting the goal.

The first time, Alan Niven hit a glorious free-kick and Bassingthwaite, who had been Lions best, powered a header into the net. But Monteverde pulled play back, ruling he had not moved the wall back 10 metres as had been requested by Niven.

On his second free-kick, Niven drove the ball into Mylonas, sending him crashing to the ground then crossed again to the far post where Druery out-jumped Moric to head home.

Olympic squandered a chance to pull level when they missed a penalty in the 61st minute. Olympic midfielder Paul Barry hit his attempt well, but young Kearton atoned for any blame which may have been put on him in the first half when he dived brilliantly to save.

Olympic had one further chance to equalise as they threw everything forward in the dying minutes against the 10 Lions. But consecutive shots from Cernaka and Photinos were blocked and then finally cleared by desperate defenders.



COL BENNETT... Lions' coach.

Queensland dilemma — Ipswich to go by themselves p14



CHIT CHAT - Behind the scene at your club



STEVE WATSON new Demons keeper.

THREE players who were with Cringila last season were part of the side which won the national Aboriginal indoor championship in Canberra recently.

Macca Davis, Robbie Davis and Brian Brown were in the Illawarra team which entered the titles under the NSW banner.

After three qualifying wins on the first day, they won their semi-final the following morning and accounted for South Australia 8-2 in the final.

Five Illawarra players have now been selected in the 20-man Australian team to prepare for an overseas trip.

They will get together at the Australian Institute of Sport next month and the venue of the trip could be Argentina, Japan or Canada.

GOALKEEPER Steve Watson is settling in well with Blacktown City, but he was unhappy over the circumstances of his exit from Sydney Croatia. "I was told at first that I was wanted for this season so I held on. Finally I found out that I wasn't," he said.

"Blacktown is a good young team and at 30 I am sure that I have many good years ahead of me," he added. Watson, who had nine seasons with Croatia, works in Blacktown, so he is right on the spot. He has just had a good holiday for the first time in years, and is now on the way to match fitness.

THERE is a regular merry-go-round of outstanding young players in Sydney, and amongst the clubs who are regularly on the spot chasing the talent are APIA, Sydney City and Sydney Olympic.

This year the Slickers picked up defender Eric Hrist, left side striker Steve Refenes and defender/midfielder Louis Triantafyllou from Sydney Olympic.

Olympic also lost John Gibson to the Australian Institute of Sport and Paul Geizerkamp to the Saints.

FORMER Brisbane Lion, Danny Wright, now with South Melbourne Hellas, is acting as an unofficial scout for his old club. Lions coach Col Bennett, who was Wright's former employer in his electrical business, contacted the former Young Socceroo recently asking him to keep on the lookout for any Melbourne strikers interested in going to Brisbane. It is understood Wright has passed on the name of a talented former NSL striker.

SYDNEY CROATIA recently slammed St. George 4-0 in a friendly. Robbie Slater grabbed two goals, Graham Arnold and John Kero the others.

ANTHONY GRBAC, the former under 16 international, has been regularly playing central midfield with Brunswick Juventus.

He has concentrated on his fitness and it is paying dividends. Anthony does not turn 18 until March 30.

MARCONI's GEOFF GUNNING has joined the band of limpers.

A couple of weeks ago the strapping 20-year-old Marconi striker was diagnosed to have a broken bone in his foot.

IN a not well known, but Marconi came out on top of Sydney Croatia 2-1 in a trial played at Bossley Park.



Also not so well known was that Marconi played Blacktown City in a friendly a couple of weeks ago and Frank Farina was sent-off!



DANNY WRIGHT... talent scout.

ASW'S FLASHBACK MAGIC

'OLD' TIMES RETURN

TODAY's photograph of an earlier National Soccer League clash between South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic is an indication of what to expect when the league opens on March 27.

Pictured are Alan Davidson and Oscar Crino in South Melbourne colours, with Olympic's Peter Katholos sandwiched in between.

The NSL began as the Phillips Soccer League in 1977 with 14 teams and rose to 16 in 1981 when Newcastle KB United arrived.

The 1984, 1985 and 1986 seasons were run as two divisions. In particular there was a bid involved at this stage to stabilise the League's finances by securing additional membership fees.

This year seven Melbourne clubs, six from Sydney and one for Adelaide will vie for championship of the West End National Soccer League.



ALTHOUGH camped in the Northern NSW lower divisions, Newcastle Croatia has ambitious that go close to matching those of their counterparts in other cities. Not long ago they had former FA Cup winning medallist with Everton, MIKE TREBILCOCK as their coach. The question now is... have they the resources to go through to the Northern First Division within a few years.

ANDY Hughes is on the transfer list at Box Hill. The talented midfielder was recently training at Croydon but was advised that funds are very low at the club, and that his negotiable \$5,000 transfer fee was well over Croydon's anticipated budget.

BAD luck has struck Marconi's strong central defender STEVE CALDERAN again.

During a practice match in training Steve once again badly injured the ankle that has given him so much trouble, and again he is out on the sideline for the time being.

A potential star in the Croatia line-up is 17-year-old former Canberra boy GUS CERRO.

Croatia president TONY BASIC is more than pleased with the young Argentinian midfielder. "He is a very skilful player and will be a top player," he said.

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SBS — T.V. SOCCER

He believes that an Australian women's team — if all the best players were available — is so good at present that they could be coached through to be the best in the world.

Doyle came from Ireland at 11 years of age. Beginning in Newcastle, altogether he played over 700 games in first grade.

He was a Northern NSW under 23 and Australian Universities representative, and came down from Newcastle to Sydney in 1970.

For a short while he went to Arsenal under Don Howe but he could not obtain a clearance to continue on.

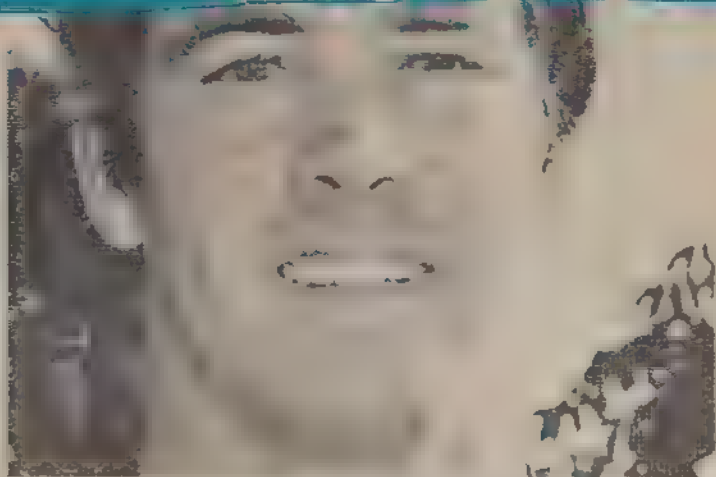
In Sydney he played for Croatia and Pan Hellenic and was APIA-Leichhardt's top scorer for three years.

He made seven appearances for Australia, one of which was as an 'A' International.

John is a high school mathematics master in Sydney at present.



PICTURED is ERIC ARNEIL, member of the board of the NSW Soccer Federation. Apart from a life-long interest in coaching, during which he saw many of his proteges come through junior ranks to stardom, he has been deeply involved in the Valentine Park development, handling supervision of the buildings, grounds and landscaping projects. Originally he came through Bankstown Association ranks and the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation. Lately he has been attending to the NSW Federation office administration in conjunction with Aulden Brown.



JOHN DOYLE... master coach.

THE Queensland Soccer Federation management committee, which recently unsuccessfully opposed a return to ethnic club names in Queensland, has hit back. It is understood the committee will introduce a new policy that will require clubs adopting ethnic names to tag them onto the end of their current names. The committee is thought to be hoping that fans and the media become lazy and eventually drop the latter part and just stick with the familiar, and un-ethnic, first name.

AN ENTHUSIAST rang ASW to enquire about the games in the coming tournament to feature the Socceroos, Manchester United, Nottingham Forest and Celtic. He was adamant that he had telephoned the Australian Soccer Federation for dates of the matches, and had been given a telephone number to ring in Perth.

ORIGINAL Socceroo squad member Willie McNally is in top form between the posts.

The Adelaide City goalkeeper finished the minor Ampol Cup round in SA without conceding a goal in the three games.

And his team-mates racked up 10 goals.

This was an excellent effort considering only one goal was scored in the opening match against State League champions Campbelltown when City was minus five of last year's Australian championship team.

FORMER Inter-Monaro and Marconi defender Rick Budini has slipped into Queensland very quietly to take over the coaching reigns at Gold Coast club Southport. But at least one Queensland XXX League club has recently learned of Budini's arrival and there could be offers for him to come to Brisbane — particularly from one prominent club struggling for defenders.

NORTHCOTE after an exiting win in the 3EA Charity Shield over Thomastown is looking to strengthen its squad with a mysterious South American player who is supposed to be very skillful and possess tons of experience. Pedro Ramos is also rumoured to be interested in a move to Northcote where he will join recently signed ex Port Melbourne captain Phillip Diamataris.

HAUL BLANCO (Blacktown).

The conversation intrigued certain members of the media and the querying began as to what language they were conversing in?

Several thoughts were handed down. "Probably Italian", said one, another offered Spanish and even a combination of Italian and Spanish but the coup de grace was ... "it has to be LATIN!" From then on it was silence!

FAWKNER has transfer-listed goalkeeper Robert Terzini and has placed a \$3,500 price tag on his head.

The long serving Fawknor keeper is being replaced by ex-Ringwood goalie Charlie Kasimas.

Peter Verechla, though, has been snapped up by Fawknor for \$3,500 from Morwell, which gives Fawknor a very strong squad and a real chance for a crack at the State League title.

THE Queensland Soccer Federation has rejected a private proposal put forward to bring Nottingham Forest to Brisbane after their Sydney commitment against Australia in May. The QSF was put off when the cost suddenly escalated after Forest learned of the travelling involved in coming north then heading south to Adelaide for other games in their four-way international tournament. It seems the Englishmen wanted to make any detour worth their while.

LAST week when Sydney Croatia met Sutherland Shire in the State Bank Challenge Cup quarter-final, ZARKO ODZAKOV all but claimed one of the most amazing goals ever seen at Marconi Stadium.

'Odzy' was some 35 metres from goal when a clearance by a Sutherland defender slammed into him and flew over the head of goalkeeper Craig Burchmore. It hit the bar and bounced back into his arms!

The Croatia midfielder was already claiming a goal as the ball took flight.

NEWS from Edensor Park is that ZELJKO JURIN has re-signed with SYDNEY CROATIA after being unable to land another club.

coach Zoran Matic has admitted moving on two European

being a certain signing and persuaded.

not name names or say where the players were playing, but both are in First Division, one a midfielder who has asked to come to Australia, and the other is a striker and friend of the midfielder.

City has no visa players, although it may sign South American Rocco Barbaro who is on trial in the night Summer series.



ZORAN MATIC — Adelaide City coach.

SA First Division State League champion Campbelltown has rebuilt for the new season and is aiming to win the title again — and get a crack at entering the West End National League.

But even if it wins the Southern area play-offs — against the Victorian and Queensland champions there is no guarantee it will go national.

"We will have to take a close look at the finances required for the new national set-up," said team manager Baz Scarsella.

"We don't intend to go broke for the privilege of saying we are in the big time."

Campbelltown, like SA's current West End club, is backed by members of the Italian community.

THE sage of Socceroo squad candidate Alan Scott continues as the Adelaide Hellas all-rounder attempts to join Robbie Dunn at Melbourne Croatia.

Croatia say they were under the impression Scott had appealed against the \$25,000 transfer fee on his head, but as we want to press yet again the appeal had not been lodged with the SA Soccer Federation.

Scott spoke to his solicitor in Adelaide then returned to Melbourne to start a new job.



ZARKO ODZAKOV — Freakish 'shot'.

WILLIE McNALLY... a shut out.



NAME: STEPHEN ALEXANDER MAXWELL
BIRTHPLACE and DATE: 17th January 1965.
HEIGHT and WEIGHT: 182cm and 83kgs.
MARRIED: Yes to Andrea.
HOME: Fairfield.
CAR: 1964 Sigma GL.
NICKNAME: Maxi, Mad Max.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: West Torrens Birkalla, Adelaide City.
OCCUPATION: At the moment — Soccer Player.

FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best and Diego Maradona.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, Golf, Australian rules Football.
FAVOURITE GROUND: Olympic Sports Field — Adelaide.
HOLIDAY RESORT: Surfers Paradise.
MUSIC: U2, Jimmy Barnes, Top Current Music.
POSITION: Forward.
ACTOR/ESS: Clint Eastwood, Sylvester Stallone, Samantha Fox.
MOVIE: Officer and a Gentleman, First Blood.
TV SHOW: Family Ties, Big League Soccer, all sports shows.
DISH: Steak and Chevapchechi and salad.
DRINK: Coca Cola.

WORST INJURY: Cartilage operation in 1982.
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Klaus Okon.
HARDEST OPPONENT: All are hard but former team-mate Neville Flounders stands out.
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER: Buggy Nyskohous.

LIKES: Relaxing, beach cricket and driving trips.
DISLIKES: Smoking and injuries.
INTERNATIONAL GAMES: 4, debut v Czechoslovakia.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Debut for Australia, Debut in NSL and winning OASL Grand Final vs Sydney Olympic at Parramatta Stadium 3-1.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing out on Australian Youth team for the finals in Mexico, 1983.

BOOT TYPE: Adidas.
BEST WORLD XI: Shilton (Eng), Breigel (West Gmy), Beckenbauer (West Gmy), Edinho (Braz), Amaros (Fra), B. Charlton (Eng), Cruyff (Hnd), Maradona (Arg), Kempes (Arg), Pele (Braz), Best (Nth Ir).
AMBITIONS FOR '87: To win the National League with Marconi and continue to represent Australia.
LONG-TERM AMITIONS: To play in 1990 World Cup and to be happy and successful in Soccer and employment.



Not only the newcomers, but also the others . . .

TONY HENDERSON LEADS BY FLAIR AND EXAMPLE

WRITES FRANK SCICLUNA

THIS season's transformation of the Marconi team that includes a number of big money signings has tended to overshadow many of the established players that were already at the club.

Whenever Marconi is mentioned, the subject inevitably turns to the \$30,000 paid for Farina, Maxwell's \$25,000 and Gerry Gomez's \$21,000 transfer fees.

Other newcomers like Zlatko Nastevski, the 28-year-old former FK Vardar striker who spent last season in the NSW State League with Rockdale Illinden, Uruguayan Alvaro Perdomo from Auburn Uruguay and the possible return to the club of Attilio Carbone from Inter Monaro are also mentioned.

This emphasis being placed on the new recruits is only natural and has been like a breath of fresh air to the club.

The interest that has been created is clearly seen by the increasing number of fans attending Marconi's training sessions.

One must not forget however that the rest of the side consists almost entirely of current and former Socceroos.

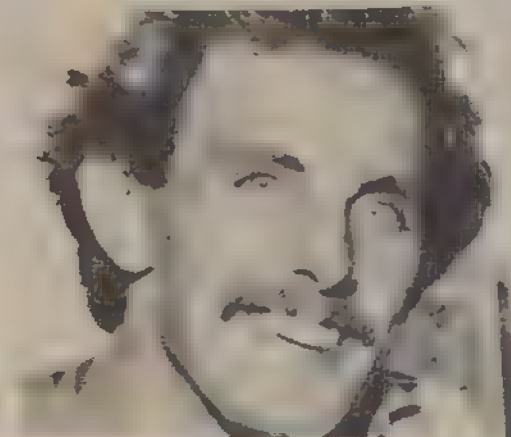
The likes of Robbie Wheatley, Ian Gray, Paul Carter and David Lowe are all on the fringe of selection in the national team.

Lowe in particular is consistently playing the type of Soccer that will eventually guarantee him a regular spot in Frank Arok's side.

The combination of these players together with the big name newcomers have suddenly turned Marconi into just about the most exciting team seen in Sydney so far this year.

Example

When a side contains so much individual talent, one further ingredient becomes absolutely necessary, and this is where skipper and former Socceroo captain Tony Henderson comes into the picture.



Henderson is a captain that leads by example and commands the respect from every member of the side.

His leadership qualities ensure a deadly mixture of individual flair and cohesive team effort from each player which results in a fluent and explosive unit.

Teh talent surrounding Henderson at Marconi this year has also played a large part in rejuvenating his own performance.

Having considered retirement at the end of last season, the 32-year-old veteran decided on one final campaign before possibly turning his attention towards coaching.

This decision appears to be paying off as Henderson is once again displaying the sort of form that has brought him so much success over the years.

He is now the only remaining link between the championship winning Marconi side in 1979 and the current team - and this was another factor in his decision to continue for one more year.

Having won the title in his first year with the club, Henderson would love nothing more than to bring the National Championship back to Bossley Park in his final season.

The way Marconi is shaping up, there is a distinct possibility that Henderson's wish could be granted and that would be poetic justice for one of the game's leading personalities.

When Henderson does finally hang up his boots, Soccer fans will find it strange to see a Marconi side without the blonde — haired defender leading it.

After nine years at the club, Marconi without Henderson will be somewhat similar to spaghetti without sauce and it is to be hoped that the club sees fit to retain his wealth of experience in some sort of capacity.

In the meantime, 'Hendo' will be doing his utmost to lead the new look Marconi towards a second championship victory in 1987.



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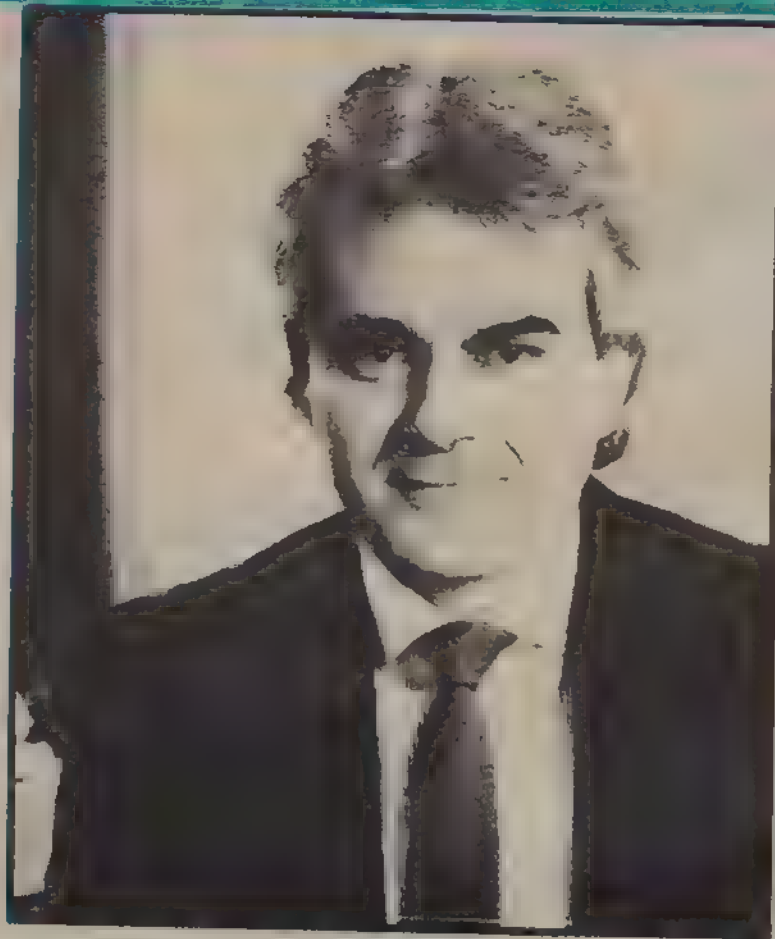


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SBS — T.V. SOCCER



LES MURRAY

SPORT REPORT

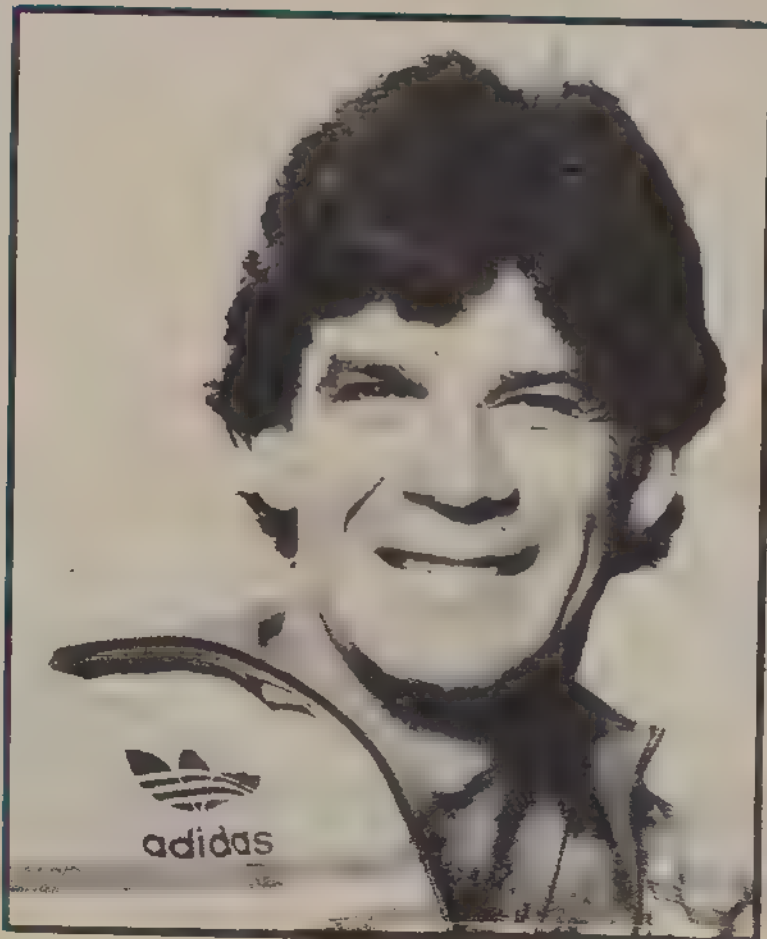
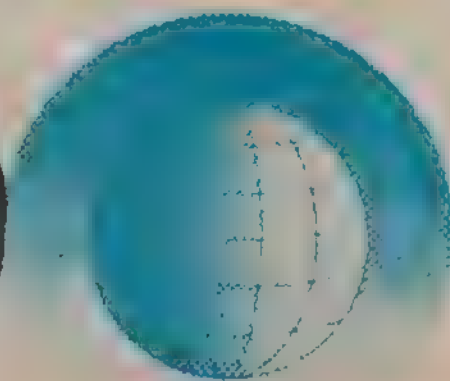
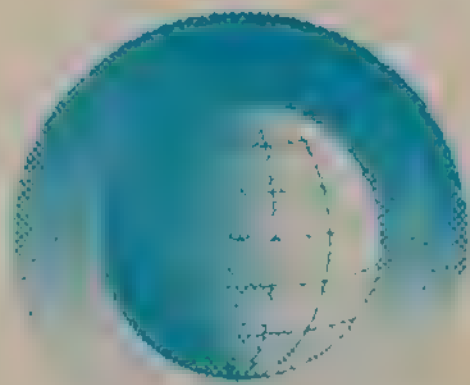
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The Nationwide Round-up



TASMANIAN SEMINAR EMBRACES ADMINISTRATIONS AND COACHES

I'VE just spent a week in Tasmania firstly staffing the Level III course in Ulverstone and secondly conducting a seminar in Hobart for club presidents, secretaries and coaches.

Director of Coaching for Tasmania Ken Morton, the ex-Wollongong and Heidelberg coach is doing a great job down there to improve the standard and create more enthusiasm.

Whilst the standard has a long way to go down there, it is certainly on the increase.

When you think of it they currently have the young Socceroo captain

BY ALAN VEST

in Kurt Reynolds and the U/16 captain in Dominic Longo, so there is certainly something to build on.

Keen Clubs

The Level III course itself had quite a number of their State League clubs involved.

One in particular who is well known to Sydney fans ex-Socceroo and St George striker Mike Denton, who incidentally is still playing and coaching with Northern State League side Burnie.

He sent his regards to his friends in Sydney

and expressed enthusiasm for the course and its content.

The seminar in Hobart on the Saturday went a great deal toward bridging the closer relationships between the club committee, secretary and president.

All State League club presidents, secretaries and coaches were present with National Director of coaching Eric Worthington chairing the proceedings.

The morning was spent inside with the afternoon being a practical one looking at a typical training session.

I'm sure from the discussion involved that Tasmania will continue to progress.

QUALIFICATIONS VITAL SAYS OTTO

KLAUS

OTTO Klaus, a former coach in New South Wales and one of Tasmania's most outspoken and controversial coaches since he arrived in the State in 1983, has attacked some clubs' policies of appointing unqualified coaches.

"I'm a strong believer in the idea that every coach should work his way up through the ranks and that every coach should have a coaching certificate," Klaus said.

"Australia, and Tasmania especially, is one of the few places in the world where coaches can be employed in the top grades without first having served their apprenticeship.

"Clubs and committees believe too much in appointing players who have made names for

themselves on the playing field, or who have given service to a club over many years.

"Only coaches with at least a Level III certificate, which is the highest level here, apart from the 'by-invitation-only' level IV certificate, should be coaching at Cadbury State League level.

"I don't think anyone under that level has the experience to handle and coach a team in the top grades."

Klaus singled out Rapid and White Eagles as examples of clubs that had appointed coaches without the necessary qualifications this season.

Klaus arrived in Tasmania in 1983 and immediately took Ulverstone to the Ampol Cup title before being sacked by Olympia-WPL and Rapid, his next two clubs.

For Level III

He is currently a coach with newly-

promoted Cadbury State League side Hobart City-Azzurri, a club which has, ironically, just appointed an unqualified coach to take charge of its senior side.

"It is not Remo Carnevale's fault, but is possibly due to the bad judgement of the committee," Klaus said.

"I think the committee underestimated the sort of season the club will be in for because I think they'll need an experienced coach in their first season in the Cadbury State League.

"At least Remo immediately booked into the up-and-coming Level III course in Ulverstone after his appointment and that should serve as an example to all would-be coaches.

"I think Hobart City will be an asset to the league and will make it richer in terms of playing styles, but, it will be

hard for any coach to inspire this team to really burn for 90 minutes."

Klaus also criticized the behaviour of some club committees who tended to support the players at the expense of the coach.

The coach, he believed, was often made the scapegoat when it was really the players who were at fault.

Klaus said he was pleased to see some people with ethnic backgrounds on the TSA and TSF committees but there was scope for much greater involvement by people representing ethnic groups.

"I'd like to see the stronger ethnic groups, those which always have leading teams, such as Olympia, Croatia and Juventus, to also nominate some strong candidates and infiltrate them into Soccer's controlling bodies in Tasmania," he said.

— VAN DIEMEN



MIKE DENTON

ANOTHER 'LADY FLO'

MRS Florence Stephenson was elected secretary of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation at the end of last season.

She is well known in her work for Soccer in Illawarra, Sydney Branch and NSW South Wales.

A former official of the Illawarra Junior Soccer Association, she contents that NSW Amateurs are in for a big season.

She is pictured above as the recipient of a magnificent bunch of flowers when she became an Illawarra life member.

Also pictured (from left) Neil Kemp (life member), Bob Maughan (competition secretary and life member) and NSWASF president Ian Holmes.



THE Queensland Soccer Federation is facing a dilemma between tradition and fairness in relation to its annual Inter-City clash between Brisbane and Ipswich.

The Inter-City clash was revived two years ago after 10 years in the wilderness and has been a promotion and footballing success. Brisbane won the first encounter but Ipswich gained revenge last year.

For both years player eligibility for either team was determined on within which City boundaries a player's registered club was based. While Ipswich has only two top grade clubs, Ipswich United and Coalstars, their combined strength has been enough to give the Brisbane team, drawn from the remaining clubs, an even tussle.

But that doesn't look to be the case this year.

For the past two years, the Lions and Brisbane

BY GREG RUSSELL

City National League players — who form the Queensland team — have not been involved in the inter-city clash.

But now that they are back in the XXXX League they are eligible, and more importantly, only for Brisbane, under the present eligibility rules.

That means the fixture turns very much into an Ipswich versus Queensland clash.

To even the teams, the obvious thing to do is to extend the Ipswich boundaries to nearby Inala and therefore class the Lions players as Ipswich candidates.

But parochialism runs high in the coalmining city and Ipswich coach Gary Wilkins has expressed his doubts, although no doubt dearly loving to call on the strength of Lions squad.

"Ipswich people want to support Ipswich play-

ers. I don't think they will back a team of outsiders," he said.

The QSF intends to lobby Ipswich and Lions players, officials and supporters before making a final decision. But an indication of the likely direction came recently from QSF boss Ian Brusasco, who knows the Ipswich scene well with his son Mark playing with Coalstars for the past two years.

"I think Ipswich would like to try their luck against whatever side Brisbane could put up. If it was a Queensland strength team then that would make an Ipswich victory even sweeter," he said.

Meanwhile Brisbane coach Mal Bland is sitting back quietly, possibly wondering now who to leave out of his likely star-studded side.

The match will be played on April 22 and will be the final selection trial for the Queensland squad to tour New Zealand in May.

◀ From Page 3

The club fans would be driven holo bolus to other codes in the height of the season.

If Australia was to play Japan in Melbourne on a Sunday, then it is likely that Sydney or Adelaide or both would be without a game.

Promotion

Soccer, unfortunately, has some limitations, which are proving intractable indeed.

Too few of the Anglo Saxon — Celtic population are fans and so many of the other nationality groups are split into sections that

are not big enough to support clubs of the desired order of magnitude.

The huge numbers of juniors, and amateurs, especially in NSW and Queensland, have little to link up with.

Australia rules is using Melbourne expatriates to build big crowds in Sydney and now Brisbane and the local following in Perth is already in place.

Perhaps some of the lesser clubs and cities with bigger followings will find the incentive to increased their standings.

National commercial TV is on the way. Australian rules can cash in, and

rugby league is on the second string, basically taking in Sydney and Brisbane and some eastern provincial centres.

SBS-TV is a big plus for Soccer but the cover would need to expand greatly to challenge bigger games.

The 1987 West End NSL, to begin at the end of this month, should provide the quality of football that is needed for Soccer development.

Other means could well have been found to save various centres whilst constricting the competition, but that is now beside the point.

So let us get on with the game — that is, the "winner" game.

KEVIN MEACOCK

This season Newcastle-based Meacock trialled with St George. Here is a run down of the highlights of his career to date.

FULL NAME: Kevin Meacock

CLUB: Newcastle Austral

HEIGHT: 5ft 11.5in

WEIGHT: 11st 2

OCCUPATION: Painter

COACHING

INFLUENCES: Kevin Fallon — New Zealand.

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Briston City-Gisborne

City NZ-Cardiff City

(Eng).

AMBITION IN THE

GAME: To become as good a player as

possible and become a

good coach.

HIGHLIGHTS OF

CAREER TO DATE:

Winning English

Schools Trophy-winning

NZ National League-

scoring twice in an

English 2nd Division

game.

FAVOURITE LOCAL

PLAYER PRESENT:

John McQuarrie

(Newcastle).

FAVOURITE PLAYER

OVERALL: Ian Rush

(Liverpool).

YOUNG PLAYER FOR

FUTURE: Chris Mitsios

(Newcastle Austral U19).

OTHER SPORTS:

Surfing, trampolining,

press-ups.

SUGGESTIONS FOR

IMPROVEMENT TO

THE GAME: Train

referees more

thoroughly. Improve

playing surfaces.

Improve coaching.

STEVE QUIRK AIDS BULLI

SUCCESS certainly breeds success at Bulli and coach Norm Flanagan is going to have a few selection headaches over the next few weeks.

After going through last season undefeated, Bulli have lost only one player from their first grade squad but there have been plenty of new arrivals at Slacky Flat.

— BY PHIL MURPHY —

Striker or midfielder Michael Grew has told Flanagan he won't be playing this year but all the other regulars are back training solidly.

Among the new signings are last year's leading scorer, Steve Quirk, from Aris, midfielder Warren Baker, back with his old club after playing with Fairy Meadow in the State League, Jim Hobbs, a fullback also from Fairy Meadow and Alan Thompson, a utility player from Fernhill.

The signing of Quirk is the real big news for Bulli as he should be part of a lethal strike force with the rangy Kevin Lewis, who was second-highest goal-getter in the league last year.

"I have plenty of talent but to be honest you have to doubt that they will all stick around too long if they don't get regular first team games," Flanagan said.

"The amazing thing about all this is that Bulli are one of the clubs who don't pay their players so it must be a tribute to the way things operate out here."

Rebuild

After losing several players to Port Kembla, Aris have managed to retain the talents of Nicky Greathead for the new season.

When last season's coach Robert Fryer switched to Port Kembla he took the backbone of the Aris side with him and Greathead was tipped to be part of the exodus.

Aris secretary Paul Mahanidis said his committee had managed to retain Greathead, who is equally at home at full-back or up front.

The club have bolstered their attack by signing Ray Farrell from Bellambi and he should be a handy asset with his experience in the NSL two years ago.

Alec Fleming is the new coach of Aris and is keeping his fingers crossed that a player just arrived from Greece lives

up to the expectations of officials.

Italia Strife

Goalkeeper John Krajnovic seems certain to sign with newly promoted Premier League side Corrimal after spending the last four years with Fairy Meadow Italia.

Krajnovic was in something of a dilemma before leaving his old club.

Italia had signed Geoff Robinson from Wollongong Macedonia in the off-season and coach Larry Gaffney had indicated the new man would be first choice.

The problem started when Robinson injured a knee in a State Bank Cup game and now faces an operation and at least eight weeks on the sideline.

Italia naturally wanted Krajnovic to stay around but officials now say they won't stand in his way.

At Corrimal, Krajnovic will be vying for a first team place with Alan Tarr.

Thompson Needed

Fernhill coach Gerry Walker will be relying heavily on youth this season and his immediate task to get striker Peter Thompson back in action.

The experienced Thompson originally told Walker he wouldn't be playing this year because he has to take a technical college course for his job.

After already having the talents of Steve Quinn from his attack and Alan Thompson from either midfield or the defence, Walker is keen to have Peter Thompson stay on.

"I don't think training will be a big problem providing he gets there when he can because Peter is a very fit player," Walker said.

"He has been running all through the summer and I am hoping he decides to play with us."

Like Bulli, Fernhill are purely amateur and this is a real setback at times as players move around from club to club to see who will wave a cheque-book at them.

One player in this category has even picked up the nickname "Sponge" this season.



GERRY WALKER — Fernhill coach.

CORRIMAL LEAGUES POPULAR

THE popular Corrimal Leagues Club pre-season knockout started on Saturday with all Illawarra clubs taking part along with a guest side from the Leagues Club.

This knockout has been going for 24 years and provides lucrative prize money for clubs in addition to valuable match practice.

Preliminary games were played on a round robin basis at the weekend and the serious stuff comes up on Sunday week when the

final is played over 45 minutes each way at Memorial Park.

Once again popular Leagues Club president Jack Bartlett will officially kick off — the job he has done every year since the first final.

The club provide financial backing for the five district clubs in their immediate area every year and Bartlett is quick to point out these clubs certainly earn it.

He said Corrimal is the real Soccer club in Illawarra as players and supporters pack the place out on Saturday evenings.

It seems to be a set-up which benefits both parties very nicely.

Last season, Tarrawanna caused an upset when they beat Warilla Wanderers in the League Club final.

— PHIL MURPHY



LARRY GAFFNEY:

GLADSTONE TO BENEFIT FROM SOCCER ACADEMY

SECOND year tuition by the Rockhampton Soccer Academy will be based on the successful English Football Association Centres of Excellence program.

Regional director of coaching, Richard Evans, observed the centres in operation over a month-long study tour in the south of England in January.

He said yesterday that the 1987 coaching panel of himself, Garry Johnson and Peter Pirog was highly qualified.

Evans holds a national Level 4 coaching badge, Pirog Level 3 and Johnson is midway through his Level 3 accreditation course. Other senior club coaches are also invited to help.

Weekly academy sessions on Northbridge Park will start at 4.30pm on Monday March 2, and the new intake will include last year's under-11 representatives, through to the under 15s.

Invitations have been sent to all city representatives and other promising juniors and 35 already have registered.

Evans said the full

program would have room for up to 50 footballers throughout the season.

First 15-year-old graduates of the five year academy course passed through late last year.

Extensions

A significant step towards establishing the Soccer Academy on a regional basis is the March 6 meeting in Gladstone, with Clinton Soccer Club president George Warry and other interested coaches and officials from district clubs.

Evans has been asked to discuss the English junior training program and hopes this will lead to an academy program starting in Gladstone, directed by an experienced, paid coach.

"We would be able to pay the suitable person and I would make monthly monitoring visits," he said.

Evans said the thrust of the Centres of Excellence syllabus applying throughout England and administered by the professional clubs was intensive skills development exercises.



These include first touch ball control, through a variety of techniques, all manners of passing, dribbling, running with the ball and shooting for goal.

Other vital skills taught at various levels through the course were heading, winning the ball, goalkeeping and moves during match situations.

The English way puts great store on accuracy and timing when forward passing, forward movement as a playing strategy, use of the full pitch width, shooting at all opportunities and securing possession as near to the opponent's goal as possible.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

FIRST BEST AND BIGGEST

NUMBER ONE IN ITS FIELD, AUSTRALIA-WIDE

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$80.00

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ACCOMODATION WANTED FOR YOUNG PLAYER

Former Newcastle junior seeks near city lodgings in Sydney with other players.

RING 049 53 2310

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THE MULTIPLEX BALL



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SOCCER BALL IN
THE WORLD

NOW WITH 2 YEAR GUARANTEE

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OFFICIAL BALL
ENDORSED BY
NATIONAL
SOCCER LEAGUE
OF AUSTRALIA

TASMANIAN TALK



TASMANIAN Soccer has never moved to stand up against the strength of other states.

At the same time there is enthusiasm for the sport, and whilst it is well behind Australian rules in popularity, it runs second to that code and ahead of the others by a country mile.

Tasmania has one thing going for it — a real winter climate in which football is set to thrive.

The greatest loss for Tasmanian Soccer was that it was unable to enter and field a strong National Soccer League side when the opportunity was there for it to carve its place.

But, with players such as Kurt Reynolds and Dominic Longo, the captains of the Australian Youth and under 16 teams respectively, now produced in the Apple Isle, it can be seen that better coaching of youngsters will lead to increasing standards of play.

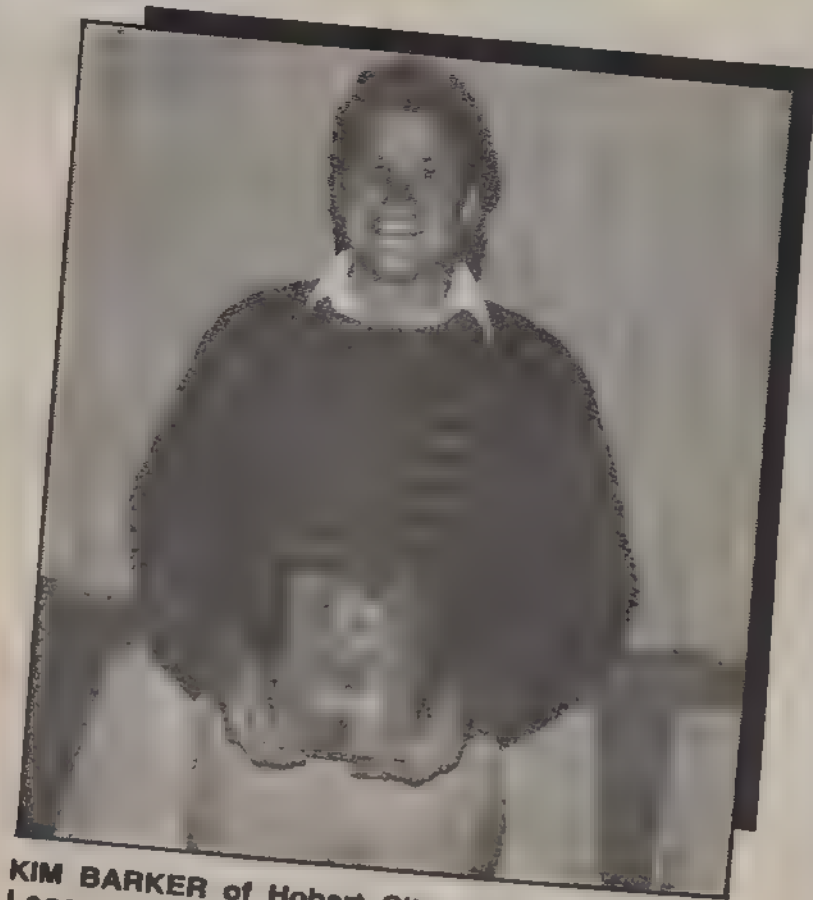
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SOUTH TASMANIA: van Diemen

NORTH TASMANIA: John Tscheperra



JOHN COLLAR . . . Malaysian rep with Olympia.



KIM BARKER of Hobart City was the Rothmans League Div 1 top goalscorer for the third successive year.

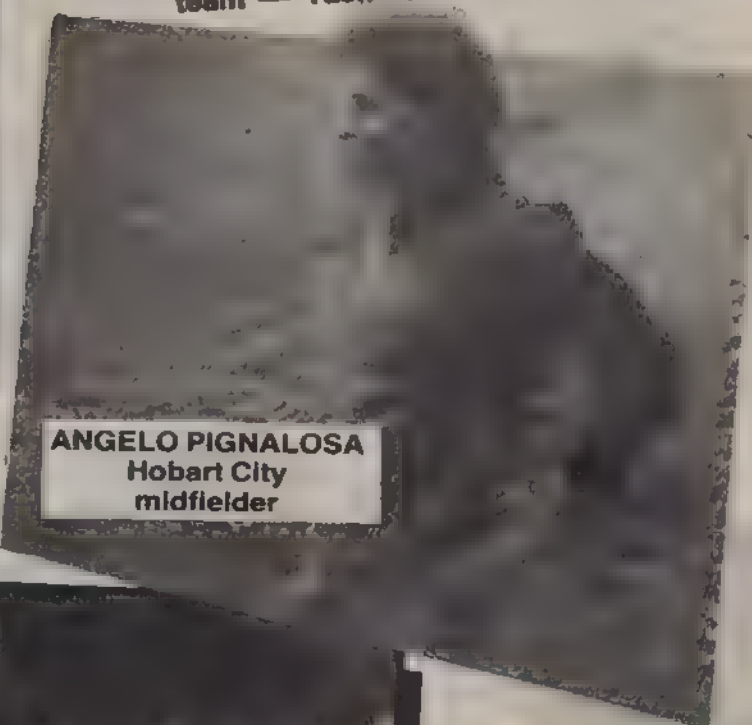
NICK PADAS, Olympia — WPL skipper, celebrates by holding high the Pepsi Youth League championship trophy.



OLYMPIA-WPL — 1986 Pepsi Youth League team — Tasmanian State Champions.



White Eagles' goalkeeper Peter Greenwood after the title win, surrounded by a group of admiring female fans.



ANGELO PIGNALOSA
Hobart City
midfielder



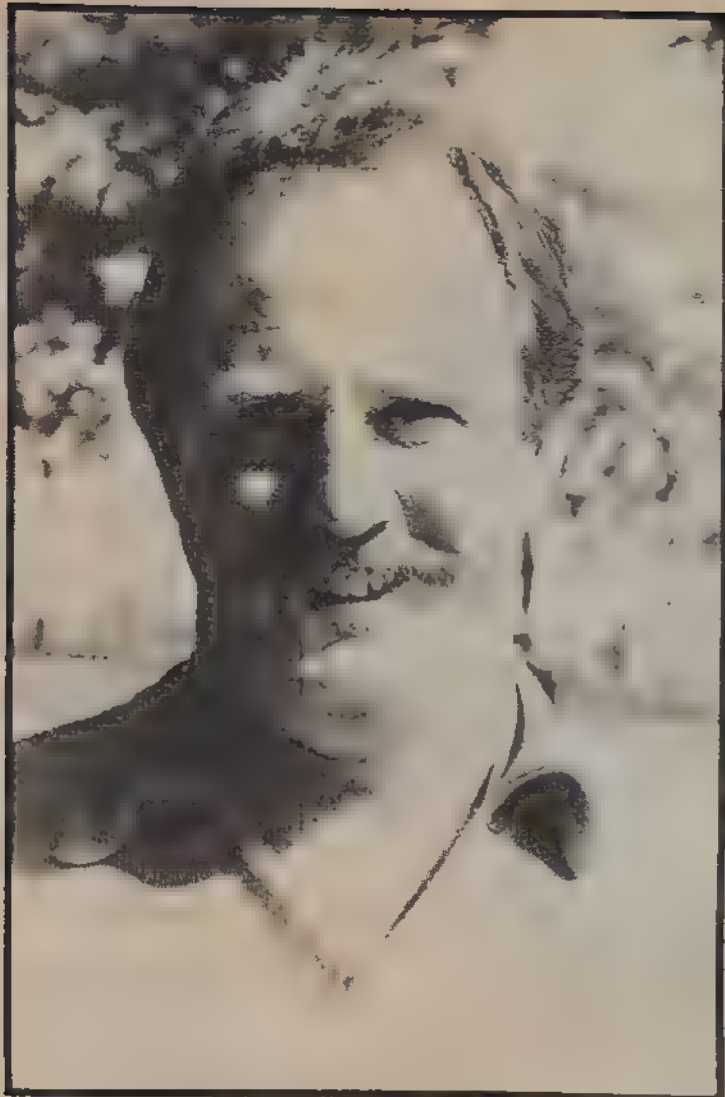
ASF official Vic Tuting MBE, hands the Tasmanian State premiership trophy to Ulverstone captain Michael Foots, watched by player-coach Joe McGrory at left.



TASMANIAN club Rapid, from the Cadbury State League, snapped before a recent match in Hobart.



Metro-Claremont didn't manage to hold their place in the Tasmanian State League, but at least they looked happy enough when the photograph was taken. The squad is: Back Row (L-R): T. Prestedge (Manager), Dobson, Clamp, Green, Oliver, Porthouse, Ashwood, Ferrall, Rae (Coach). Front (L-R): Pitt, Pitchford, Sinclair, Peters, White, Agius, McIntyre. — PHOTO VAN DIEMEN



MAX GROLL
ex-Canterbury player.

CROATIA DEAKIN ARE ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE THEIR STATUS

ACT Soccer champion Croatia Deakin begins the new season with money in the bank and a desire to improve itself unquenched by continual setbacks.

For the second year running its application to join the NSW State League has been rejected, ensuring it will be overshadowed by Canberra City and Inter Monaro for at least another season.

But coach Ivan Gruicic says it is pointless to be bitter.

"Our job is to go out there and win the ACT Senior League again," he said.

"Only by doing this will we keep ramming home our fitness to be a member of the NSW competition."

BY GRAHAM COOKE

"Then we must apply to NSW and keep on applying.

"We are the best supported team in Canberra — there were 1200 people at Deakin Oval recently for the pre-season friendly against Sydney Croatia and hardly any of them came from Sydney."

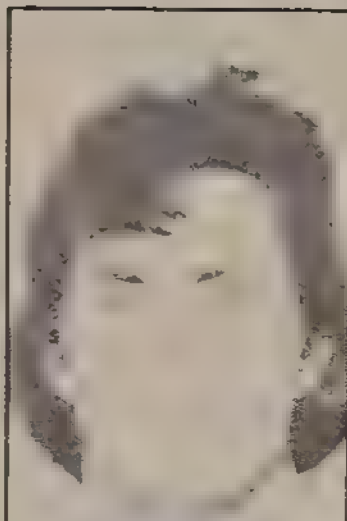
"On top of that the Soccer club made a profit of \$18,000 on last season, largely due to the work of our president, Ivan Bulum, and the committee."

SUTHERLAND has already won a reputation of being a team to beat, even though the club is not one of the financial high riders of the State Bank Soccer League.

They went extremely well in the State Bank Challenge Cup, before exiting from the quarter-finals due to three Robbie Slater goals.

Fortunately for the Soccer Sharks they have been well served by their coaches.

Mike Johnson took them into the State League.



MAL HAYNES
Reserves

John Watkiss, the famous Socceroo all-rounder who played in three World Cups, did extremely well for the

club and John Lavin carried on successfully from there.

This year the job has fallen to Max Groll, well known in his playing days with Canterbury-Marrickville.

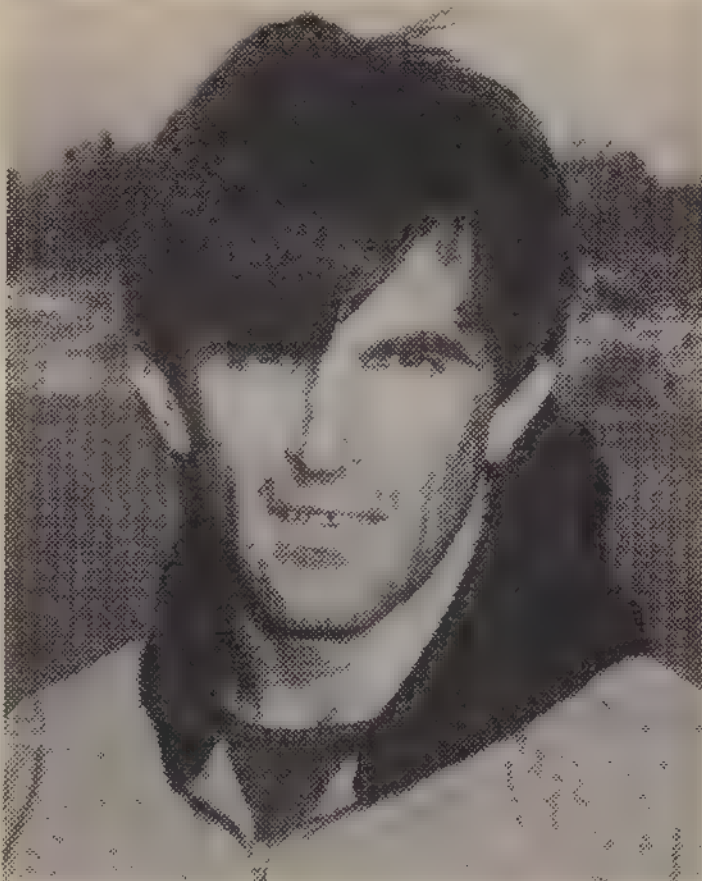
He has also been a successful NSW junior coach.

Pictured are Max Groll and his assistants, former superb goalkeeper Malcolm Haynes who could have really gone places had he wished to stay in the National League, and ex-Sydney Olympic defender Paul Ankudinoff, who has the under 19 team.



PAUL ANKUDINOFF
Under 19s

ACT NEWS



VIC TRAJANOSKI . . . from Inter Monaro.

after three years overseas, and former Monaro NSL winger Vic Trajanoski.

Isaac Farrell comes from Juventus on a free

transfer and former Canberra City NSL player

Jim Harkins has shown some interest.

And from the Croatia youth system come forwards Luke and Ante Ujour and back four

player Elvis Glavinic — "16 and 17-year-olds who will be coming into the first team squad, probably as substitutes at first."

NORTH BANKSTOWN SOCCER CLUB

PLAYERS REQUIRED

This well-performed club in NSW Second Division seeks players to fill vacancies in all grades.

Please phone coach Dennis Madden

709 8861

or secretary John Sirett

77 8430

Peter Irving in Hobart NSL EXPERIENCE ARRIVES IN HOBART

PETER IRVINE, the Newcastle supremo last season, is the new coach of Cadbury State League club, Juventus-Pioneer, in Tasmania.

He took Newcastle to sixth spot in the Northern Division of the National League last year but left the club after it lost its major sponsor and players began to drift away to Sydney clubs.

Irvine has played for Burnley, Preston, Bradford City and Bury in England and arrived in Sydney in 1966 to join Corinthians.

He soon joined Newcastle-Azzurri and eventually captained Northern New South Wales against numerous touring sides.

He was a member of Australia's unsuccessful World Cup squad in 1970.

Irvine has been somewhat disappointed with some of the players at

BY VAN DIEMEN

Juventus and he has openly stated that he will ditch established stars who don't pull their weight and play youngsters in their place.

"The attitude is very poor here," Irvine said. "I've told these fellows if they don't want to do it they can pay the money and sit on the sidelines because I'll play the kids."

"I've got the basis of a side but the attitude has got to improve. Until you get that, I think you're always going to have problems in Tasmania."

Discipline

Irvine has laid down the law to his players and they will know exactly what to expect.

"They've been told that if they're asked to be at the ground at a certain time, if they roll up five or 10 minutes late and they've got no valid excuse, then discipline will be enforced."

"The same applies to training. All I'm asking for is for the players to come to training, to train properly, and if they're picked for the weekend to go out there and give 90 minutes for themselves and the club."

"I'm asking for no more and if they give me a fair crack of the whip they'll certainly get a fair crack back."

"But, if they do the wrong thing, they can pay their admission and sit in the stand like the rest of the people and watch."

Irvine has been troubled at training by the lack of a goalkeeper and by the absence of three first-team regulars.

Absentees

Midfielder Steve Kannegiesser is still in-

involved with cricket and has yet to make an appearance; midfielder Sergio Pace went to Melbourne on holiday without notifying Irvine; and top striker John Broadhouse has been absent for the past fortnight.

"Training is going well but I'm not getting the players there that I want," Irvine complained.

He is pleased with some of the club's youngsters, however, and they may well be called upon to carry the flag in the Cascade Summer Cup pre-season competition.

"Young Dominic Longo (Australia's under-16 captain) has still got a lot to learn but he's got a good attitude and the kid's doing well."

"Youngsters Billy Stanford, Matthew Gasparin and Romeo Frediani are only about 16 years old and they've done exceptionally well."



CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB



PLAYERS WANTED

1st Division Inter Urban Club, now invites players to join. All players interested should contact . . .

JOHN (b.h.) 358 1298 (a.h.) 398 2423 or
DANNY 398 1226

or turn up to training at QUEENS PARK BARONGA AVE,
WAVERLEY

Training sessions 6.15pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

LIVERPOOL — OLYMPIC

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION DIVISION 4

PLAYERS WANTED

Experienced players for our 1st and 2nd Grades are now invited to join our Club.

Training sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm, at

PHILLIPS PARK,
Cnr Reilly St and Hills Road, LURNEA.

Girls Open Age team players are also now invited to join.

For further information, please contact . . . BILL or POLLY

608 2009

MICHEL PLATINI

(Juventus and France)

Full Name: Michel Platini
Birthdate: 21 June 1955
Birthplace: Joeuf, France
Previous clubs: Nancy, St Etienne
Position: Midfield
Career highlight: Helping France win the 1984 European Championship
Career disappointment: Losing two World Cup semi-finals.
Football ambitions: To go into management
Favourite player: Raymond Kopa
Favourite club: Nancy
Favourite other sportsperson: Bjorn Borg
Who would you most like to meet?: The Pope
Favourite actress: Brigitte Bardot
Favourite music: Classical
Hobbies: Reading.
Marital status: Married to Christele



MIKE HAZARD

(Chelsea)

Full Name: Michael Hazard
Birthdate: 5 February, 1960
Birthplace: Sunderland
Height and Weight: 5ft 7ins/11st 2lbs
Previous clubs: Tottenham
Position: Midfield
Career highlight: Helping Spurs win the 1984 UEFA Cup
Career disappointment: Being dropped by Chelsea
Football ambitions: To score a hat-trick at Wembley
Favourite player: Glenn Hoddle
Favourite club: Sunderland
Favourite other sportsperson: John McEnroe
Who would you most like to meet?: McEnroe—because I feel I can understand him.
Favourite actor: Paul Newman
Favourite music: Michael Jackson
Hobbies: Cricket, golf, snooker and tennis.
Educational qualifications: 3 'O' levels
Marital status: Married to Yvonne
Children: Ricky-Lee(1)



FRANK McAVENNIE

(West Ham and Scotland)

Full Name: Frank McAvennie
Birthdate: 22 November 1960
Birthplace: Glasgow
Height and Weight: 5ft 10ins/11st 5lbs
Previous clubs: St Mirren
Position: Striker
Career highlight: Scoring on my debut for Scotland, against Australia
Career disappointment: 1986 World Cup finals
Football ambitions: To win something with West Ham
Favourite player: Kenny Dalglish
Favourite club: Celtic
Favourite other sportsperson: Steve Davis
Who would you most like to meet?: The guys who burgled my house in Scotland
Favourite actor: Richard Gere
Favourite music: U2 and Paul Young
Hobbies: Snooker.
Educational qualifications: none
Marital status: single



RAY HOUGHTON

(Oxford)

Full Name: Raymond James Houghton
Birthdate: 9 January 1962
Birthplace: Glasgow
Height and Weight: 5ft 8ins/11st
Previous clubs: West Ham, Fulham
Position: Midfield
Career highlight: 1986 Milk Cup final at Wembley
Career disappointment: None yet
Football ambitions: To play for Scotland
Favourite player: Kenny Dalglish
Favourite club: Celtic
Favourite other sportsperson: Seve Ballesteros
Who would you most like to meet?: The Pope
Favourite actor: Bugs Bunny!
Favourite music: Brian Ferry and Whitney Houston
Hobbies: Golf, snooker.
Educational qualifications: Three O levels
Marital status: Married to Brenda
Children: James(3) and Brett(1)



PETER RAMPLEY

He whistled while he worked

FORMER FIFA REFEREE PETER RAMPLEY

NO matter which way you look at it a referee's lot is not a happy one. You have a good game and are criticised. You know you have a bad game and are doubly criticised . . . OR EVEN PRAISED.

Peter Rampley has seen it all, but in retirement he fronts up to assist the National Soccer League in its selection of referees.

Service like this is invaluable to the progress of the game.

In his career Rampley controlled 39 internationals and over 100 club international matches.

He was on the FIFA list for 15 years, and held his Grade I ticket for 2 years after finishing his playing career.

All in all he refereed some 800 first grade matches, seven NSL State League grand finals, 180 National League games and four Ampol Cup finals.

It is a record for the coming generation of whistlers to emulate.

Internationals:

AUSTRALIA v BULGARIA
 AUSTRALIA v SCOTLAND
 AUSTRALIA v GREECE
 AUSTRALIA v RUSSIA
 AUSTRALIA v URUGUAY
 AUSTRALIA v MEXICO
 AUSTRALIA v GREECE
 AUSTRALIA v GREECE
 AUSTRALIA v HONG KONG
 AUSTRALIA v HONG KONG
 AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND
 AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND
 AUSTRALIA v ISRAEL
 AUSTRALIA v NORTHERN IRELAND
 AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Youth)
 FIJI v NEW ZEALAND (Youth)
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA v NEW ZEALAND (Youth)
 ISRAEL v NEW ZEALAND (Youth)
 ISRAEL v PAPUA NEW GUINEA (Youth)
 SAUDI-ARABIA v SYRIA
 SYRIA v QATAR
 SYRIA v IRAQ
 SYRIA v SAUDI-ARABIA
 SAUDI-ARABIA v SAUDI-ARABIA
 QATAR v SAUDI-ARABIA
 IRAQ v QATAR
 CHINA PR v KUWAIT
 SINGAPORE v MALAYSIA
 NEW ZEALAND v INDONESIA
 NEW ZEALAND v FIJI
 NEW ZEALAND v FIJI
 JAMAICA v BERMUDA
 TAIPEI v INDONESIA
 NEW ZEALAND v KUWAIT
 KUWAIT v INDONESIA
 WEST GERMANY v MEXICO (Youth)
 WEST GERMANY v SPAIN (Youth)
 SPAIN v MEXICO (Youth)

SINGAPORE v MALAYSIA Armed Forces Cup Final
 WEST GERMANY v POLAND Armed Forces Cup Final
 SINGAPORE v MALAYSIA - BOOGAARS Cup Final

UNLIKELY BAN

IT has come to our attention that recently a memorandum has been allegedly distributed by Sir Arthur George outlining that Soccer players cannot play Indoor Soccer — a direction from FIFA.

Please note the facts — Australia is a democratic governed society. No one can tell you what you can and cannot do with your leisure time; what sport you can or cannot play, or your choice of entertainment.

Indoor Soccer is an Incorporated Sporting Body funded and recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and the New South Wales Department of Sport and Recreation.

The Federal Minister for Sport, the Honourable J.J. Brown, is the Patron of the A.I.S.F. At a recent meeting of the Australian Soccer Federation's Executive, a motion was carried not to take any action on the FIFA ruling, which is aimed at Australia only, because of the fact that Australia is the host country for the 1988 World Indoor Cup. We challenge any club — State or Federal official of the outdoor body to ban players and any ban will be dealt with in the High Court at no expense to the individual.

Any player who is threatened or banned because they choose to play any other sport, be it Indoor Soccer or Cricket or whatever, please contact our office on 771 1677 and the matter will be put in the hands of our solicitors, Messrs Morris, Fletcher and Cross immediately on your behalf.

Please note — Club and Club Officials can also be sued. For many years we have enjoyed a close working relationship with the outdoor body. We have worked for the common cause of improving the skills of "Soccer" amongst our youth — this ought to continue. It is the kids that benefit. We are not

interested in Sir Arthur George's politics. The memo is nothing but a scare tactic because we will not let them take over Indoor Soccer.

A case in point. Mr Charles Perkins, Permanent Head of the Aboriginal Affairs Department is the President of the A.C.T. Outdoor Federation, he is also the Vice-President of the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation. He currently holds the position of the Chairman of the Organising Committee for the 3rd Indoor World Cup in Australia. Two weeks ago Mr Charles Perkins was accepted as an Executive Member of the Australian Soccer Federation — he also plays Indoor and Outdoor Soccer in Johnny Warren's Indoor and Outdoor Team. Why wasn't he or Johnny Warren for that matter banned? Because it is illegal and the A.S.F. knows it. If anyone has any concern anywhere in Australia, please contact me.

JOE C. BRENT,
A.I.S.F. President,
Sydney.

ASW AND YOUNG ROOS ARE TOPS

I AM writing to ask a great favour. We buy Australian Soccer Weekly every week. I went to my newsagent in January and they told me your first paper edition wouldn't come out till end of February or early March.

So I was in the city last week and got one. Lucky I saw the number 7 and I get number 8 this week. Could tell me if 1 to 6 came out. If so would you be able to send them to me. First write and let me know how much for papers and postage as I missed out on them badly.

Our son John is at AIS in Canberra and you did great write-ups in editions 7 and 8 on qualifying matches in New Zealand in which he was in the Young Socceroo squad.



We buy the paper every week as you let us know how he is going down there in the AIS squad plus heaps of others good write-ups.

Please keep up the good work and we look forward to reading your paper each week. Heaps of Pine River Soccer players buy the paper also.

Robyn & Fred Koch
Strathpine 4500
(and on behalf of John at the AIS — "Thanks")

[The Volume 8 refers to our eight years of publication. We began this year with Vol 8 No. 279 on February 3 1987. It seems you have obtained ASW from the start. — Ed.]

ARSENAL IN BOX SEAT MERSEYSIDE TOPS LEAGUE

WITH Arsenal having a rest day prior to their important League Cup return engagement with Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool and Everton took the opportunity to leapfrog them on the table on Saturday.

John Aldridge, in his first full run since arriving from Oxford in a \$A1.8 million deal, paid a small portion of the fee with a 61st minute winning goal against Southampton.

Everton gained pride of place on goal difference with a scoreless away

draw against Manchester United.

Third-placed Arsenal, with 28 matches played, have a game in hand on their four top rivals.

Veteran marvel Kenny Dalglish was the motor behind Liverpool's mid-week 3-0 win over Southampton.

He did on appear in Saturday's League game, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that the Reds will be in this year's League Cup final.

Luton Town and Norwich have high

profiles on the First Division table.

Portsmouth, 3-0 winners over Stoke, are six points ahead in leading the Second Division charge.

Luton had a creditable 2-1 win at home over West Ham.

Striker Tony Cottee for the Hammers and midfielder Peter Nicholas were the early scorers.

Ashley Grimes, the Irish international, provided Luton's winner.

CELTIC CONTRIVE TO HELP RANGERS

GLASGOW Celtic suprised by losing 4-1 away at Dundee and thereby helped arch-rivals Glasgow Rangers to the top of the Scottish Premier Division on goal difference.

Hibs held Rangers to 1-1, but the print was invaluable to the Blues.

Rangers have a

game in hand on Celtic but third-placed Dundee United have two games on them, with a gap down to Aberdeen.

Davie Cooper supplied the cross for Davie McPherson to head home Rangers' equaliser.

Hibs scored before halftime through Eddie May, and did exceptionally well for an away encounter.



ENGLISH Div 1: Coventry 2, Charlton 1, Liverpool 1, Southampton 0, Luton 2, West Ham 1, Manchester United 0, Everton 0, Norwich 1, Aston Villa 1.		Div 1: Airdrieonians 0, Queen of the South 1, Clyde 0, Morton 0, Dumbarton 1, Partick 0, Forfar 3, Dunfermline 1, Kilmarnock 3, East Fife 1, Montrose 1, Brechin 1.	
Div 2: Birmingham 0, Hull 0, Crystal Palace 2, Blackburn 0, Grimsby 1, Sheffield United 0, Leeds 1, Bradford 0, Millwall 0, Derby 1, Oldham 2, Huddersfield 0, Plymouth 2, Barnsley 0, Portsmouth 3, Stoke 0, Shrewsbury 0, Reading 0, Sunderland 1, Ipswich 0, West Bromwich 0, Brighton 0.		Div 2: Alloa 1, Cowdenbeath 0, Arbroath 1, Stenhousemuir 1, East Stirling 0, St Johnstone 2, Meadowbank 3, Albion 0, Queen's Park 0, Ayr 0, Raith 2, Stirling 2, Stranraer 0, Berwick 1.	
Div 3: Bournemouth 1, York 0, Bristol Rovers 0, Notts County 0, Bury 1, Brentford 1, Carlisle 2, Newport 2, Chesterfield 0, Bolton 0, Darlington 0, Bristol City 0, Fulham 2, Walsall 2, Gillingham 2, Mansfield 0, Port Vale 1, Blackpool 6, Swindon 1, Middlesbrough 0, Wigan 2, Rotherham 1, Doncaster 1, Chester 1.		Div 3: Aldershot 4, Swanssea 1, Burnley 2, Tranmere 2, Cambridge United 1, Scunthorpe 0, Cardiff 0, Peterborough 1, Crewe 1, Hartlepool 0, Orient 2, Lincoln 1, Preston 2, Wolverhampton 2, Wrexham 2, Rochdale 2, Colchester 2, Hereford 0, Northampton 1, Halifax 0, Southend 2, Exeter 1, Stockport 0, Torquay 0.	
SCOTTISH Prem Div: Aberdeen 0, Dundee United 1, Clydebank 2, Hamilton 3, Dundee 4, Celtic 1.		Div 1: Falkirk 0, Rangers 1, Hibernian 1.	
Div 2: Airdrieonians 0, Queen of the South 1, Clyde 0, Morton 0, Dumbarton 1, Partick 0, Forfar 3, Dunfermline 1, Kilmarnock 3, East Fife 1, Montrose 1, Brechin 1.		Div 2: Alloa 1, Cowdenbeath 0, Arbroath 1, Stenhousemuir 1, East Stirling 0, St Johnstone 2, Meadowbank 3, Albion 0, Queen's Park 0, Ayr 0, Raith 2, Stirling 2, Stranraer 0, Berwick 1.	
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ADVERTISING RING
JOHN ECONOMOS
(02) 660 2033

AN ATYPICAL TURNER CUP SCHOOLBOYS SOCCER TEAM



Evolution through to Soccer

DURING 1986 the Booragul High School Physical Education teacher Mrs Trish Jackson changed places with Mrs Carolyn Broadhurst of "Colonel By" High School of Ohawa, Canada.

The exchange was appreciated by all concerned.

The vivacious Canadian held Soccer in high

regard and showed keen interest in the exploits of all the Booragul teams during the year.

As a parting gesture to Soccer enthusiast Bill Turner she gave him a picture relating to the evolution of man through from gridiron to Soccer.

While it caricatures the American football scene, she felt that it may be a reasonable satire for the Australian football fraternity.

When placed on the Booragul notice board it

caused more than a casual interest, as just as couple of days later a second artistic masterpiece made its appearance on the notice board (see sketch).

This time it depicted the 15 years "Bill Turner Cup" squad in a not to classic pose.

The rugby league teachers were seen with wry grins, but they were loud in their denials of being guilty of organising the display.

QUACK HURTS AMATEURS

A **BOGUS** advertising agent, operating under the name "INTER SPORTS," is harming the cause of junior Soccer in NSW.

The agent calls on business people canvassing for advertisements in publications for amateur Soccer, whereas he has no right to do so.

If any club official learns of this person obtaining advertisements could they immediately contact secretary Mrs Florence Stephenson (042 84 8271) or treasurer George Churchward (047 36 4107).

This would enable them to take appropriate action through the police.

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation has its own official agent, who is legitimately booking advertising for the official yearly handbook.

VINCE BALZAN AT NEPEAN

VINCE Balzan is once again Director of Coaching for the Nepean District Soccer Association in Sydney's west.

The Association is aiming for a substantial improvement in this year's NSW Youth League competition.

Coaches for the various Youth League grades are: U16: David Bertinshaw, U15: Peter Maday, U14: Tony Verwey, U13: David Wadsworth.

The Junior Scene

ASW's Editor Keith Gilmour takes a look at the Junior Game.

PO Box
406 Broadway
NSW 2007

The biggest
Junior Cover
in Australia

'BOYS FROM THE BUSH' TO RECEIVE BETTER CHANCE

THERE were still many problems to eliminate the handicaps that Soccerdom's 'boys from the bush' are suffering from in comparison with their city counterparts.

"The NSWASF and myself are only too willing to admit this enigma, but we are working to untie the Gordian knot," said the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation's president, Mr Ian Holmes, when addressing the Riverina Branch of the NSWASF's annual general meeting.

"The biggest problem is the isolation of the country centres and the expenses which could occur when a country boy wishes to further his skills by attending city coaching camps," Mr Holmes said.

"Of course we at the NSWASF fully realise that some parents could not afford financing their sons to attend these clinics."

"This is the reason I and the State Director of Coaching Alan Vest introduced 'Operation Outreach', also known as the regional coaching clinics.

"I am happy to say from all reports I have received that the system works very well indeed."

"If there is a talented boy in the bush who is in no financial position to play first class Soccer the NSWASF is always willing to see if it can assist the boy financially."

He added that the country boys were the ones who benefited most from Valentine Park, which he described as the future hub of the Australian Soccer training academy.

He revealed that a total of \$68,000 had been paid out in insurance for injuries during 1986.

FROM FRANK FINLAY

The 1987 Riverina Branch office bearers are: President 'Dick Powell (second term), secretary Rod Galvin, Senior Vice President Wally Bracher, Treasurer Fred Morse (second term), Junior Vice President John Rush.

Public Relations Officer and Property Officer Frank Finlay (fourth term).

In his annual report Mr Powell stated: "1986 has seen the continuing of Country Representatives competition. This Branch provided nearly 50% of the players for these sides and the experience gained both on and off the field will long be remembered by these young adults."

"Additionally, this year, The State has for the first time funded the positions of Country Coaching Co-ordinators."

This has been an extremely successful initiative which will in time



DICK POWELL . . . Riverina President.

greatly improve the standard of country coaching.

"In the senior ranks the Northern Riverina Soccer League continues to develop by leaps and bounds. Given a few more years this competition will become the standard for country football."

"My congratulations to Yoogali for progressing through to the final rounds of the State-run Amateur Cup."

SLICKERS SCOOP GOALIES' POOL

SYDNEY CITY juniors have made history by signing Frank Haffey to coach their Youth League goalkeepers.

The former Scottish International and St

George ace has the skill to introduce a new high standard of performance to the young brigade of club goalkeepers.

Leading junior handling teams for the club this year are: U16 Gerry

Borrowdale; U15 John Doyle; U14 Keith Jones; U13 Robbie Robertson.

The club has been sponsored to the tune of \$4,000 by Serderon Pty Ltd, plastic sheeting and products distributors.

This season Terry Stern has taken over

the control of Youth League affairs from Paul Bayutti.

Club stalwart Steve Serda has been incapacitated with a severe leg and back ailment.

He has been confined to bed at Buena Vista Hospital, 132 Victoria Rd, Bellevue Hill, where friends are visiting him.

BANKSTOWN ASSOCIATION 1987

YOUTH LEAGUE TRAILS

Trials for under 16 Tues 3 and Thurs 5 March 6pm to 7.30pm

at **STUART RESERVE** Stuart St, Padstow

For further enquiries contact:

R. WARD

528 6999

OR JENNY RUSSELL

771 4416

We Need You!

To give us your junior news. In order to keep up our cover of junior Soccer in Australia

we need our readers to supply us with information, photos, emblems etc.

Send your copy to 'The Junior Scene', PO Box 406 Broadway NSW 2007



TERRY HAMPTON . . . OAK Turner Cup.

Parents are right . . .

SOCCER'S LOW INCIDENCE OF SPINAL INJURIES

CAREFULLY researched data on the problem of spinal cord injuries has proved what huge numbers of parents have instinctively recognised for very many year past.

It has shown that Soccer has an almost negligible occurrence of injuries of such a serious nature.

In fact the Children's Spinal Research Foundation has only come up with one such injury in 26 years.

Professor Tom Taylor, chairman of SpineCare said: "Facts are now available for this serious problem to be placed in a true perspective. Previous information from other sources was anecdotal, and not based on painstaking clinical research."

"Rugby union and rugby league can no longer be viewed as games, but rather, as near mortal combat."

The professor is the Foundation Professor of Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery at the University of Sydney and Head of the Department of Orthopaedics at the Royal North Shore Hospital.

In addition he is Visit-

BY KEITH GILMOUR

ing Medical Officer at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children.

The facts and figures that so much favour the playing of Soccer as a sport have been assembled as the result of painstaking research.

The are all the more compelling because of the comparatively huge numbers that play Soccer, on which the study is grounded.

The information relates to 113 patients admitted to the six spinal injuries units in Australia between 1960 and 1985.

No less than 97 patients and the parents of six footballers who died were interviewed.

SpineCare's research indicates: "There has been a dramatic increase of injuries since 1977, particularly for schoolboys."

"Only one schoolboy injury occurred in rugby

union before 1977, but there have been 11 since."

"Thirty four percent of injured players in rugby union were schoolboys - as against 15 per cent in rugby league."

"Taking into account the numbers playing, schoolboy injuries in union are four times more common than in league."

"In rugby union, 62 per cent of all injuries occurred in scrums, and 30 per cent in league. Of these, 68 per cent occurred as a result of packing (when the two sets of forwards come together). This represents 23 preventable disasters..."

"The peak incidence for rugby is in June and July. This suggests that fitness is not a major factor."

"Only 17 per cent of players have returned to normal after treatment. Forty four per cent have died or are totally incapacitated."

Obviously the incidence in Soccer is an absolute minimum - so much so that it receives little mention.

Major injury payouts under the NSW Sporting Injuries Fund show rug-

by league with 38 payouts in the first six years of the scheme, representing \$899000.

In rugby union the corresponding figures are 16 and \$530000, with the other major area for payout motorcycling with 18 major claims and \$461000.

Only three such claims have been made in Soccer totalling \$15000.

It may be that many Soccer players are insured outside the government scheme, but the figures certainly speak for themselves, as indicated by the minimal pay-outs for other types of sport other than those mentioned above.

There are of course other - usually much lesser - injuries in all sports including Soccer. Amongst youngsters there can be various knocks, the most serious of which is normally a possible broken limb.

Rugby union coach Alan Jones poo-hoed the figures in the SpineCare study but Professor Taylor stated that he would have no trouble in debating the issue with him at any stage.

PALACIOS POUNDS PLAYERS

CANBERRA City Olympians' player-coach Augusto Palacios has wasted no time in setting up a training regime which would do credit to the SAS.

City players wondered what hit them when they were told they must train five times a week, including Sunday mornings, with extended programs for goalkeepers.

Palacios, who arrived from Peru two weeks ago, made it quite clear that he would instill tough discipline at the club in an attempt to get it straight back into the National Soccer League.

"I am not interested in playing second class Soccer in Australia," he said.

FERNANDEZ WORRIES

INTER-Monaro will be depending on two teenagers for their goalkeeper cover in the NSW State Bank League this season.

Coach Victor Fernandez has persuaded 18-year-old Manuel Notaris to stay with the club, and had also signed Dennis Maricic, 17, from Croatia Deakin.

But Fernandez worries how the youngsters will cope with the additional pressure of NSW League Soccer. Notaris, a product of the Jim Hayes goalkeeper factory at Belconnen United, was not even a regular member of the ACT League club's first team last season while Maricic is better known for his indoor Soccer exploits.

And the problem is compounded with the news that former Socceroo Harry Williams, bowing to the pressures of a senior position in the Federal public service, has decided to hang up his boots, leaving a big hole in the Monaro backline.



SOCCER SKILLS

MIKE JOHNSTON has done it all. Here he demonstrates heading to a junior group.

His latest book 'SOCCER SKILLS' is out now and is available from ABC Shops and all good booksellers. You will find it well worth purchasing.

MIKE JOHNSON

MIKE JOHNSON is a former English professional Soccer player. He played as full time professional with Doncaster Rovers, Brighton, Fulham and Newcastle United. He is an English Football Association coach.

In Australia he has coached top teams - Sutherland, St George BSC, West Adelaide, APIA, Wollongong United (now Wollongong Macedonia) and currently Fairy Meadow in the NSW State League.

His television series *The Basic Skills of Soccer* was shown for the first time in 1980 on ABC, concurrently with another television series of his.

Fitness for Sport. His book *Fitness for Sport* won a quick

acceptance among schools and junior club throughout Australia.

He has had outstanding success coaching young players, many of whom have gone on to represent Australia at Soccer. These include John Roach, Alan Griffiths, Col Bennett, Steve Perry, Alan Maher, Brendan Grosse, Neville Morgan, John O'Shea, and Mark Jankovics.

He says that every one of these players, despite their eventual success, was deficient in basic skills because of inadequate coaching in their early years, and that all of them would have been better players if they had developed good basic grounding of skill when they were young.

That, says Johnson, is the reason for this book and the film series that preceded it.

1986 SENIORS RIVERINA CUP WINNERS



Brian McBurnie
Frank Bertazzo
Bora Vjestica
Rodger Sanland
Phillip Page
Michael Mitterer
Barry Van Dijk
Ian Page
Rick Porter
Bob McBurnie
Wayne Fraser
Alfie Zanghellin
Paul Kelly
Collin Arnold
Steve Hayes

CENTRAL NSW WOMEN'S SOCCER FEDERATION

requires

APPLICATIONS FOR COACHES

for State U15, U18 and All Age ladies teams.

Enquiries may be addressed in writing to the Secretary, P.O. Box 783, Liverpool 2170.

Phone enquiries to

606 1158

CLOSING DATE FRI MARCH 20

GUCCI CUP LINKED WITH ANSETT CUP

THE GUCCI Cup final, to decide the top NSW under 13 team of the pre-season period, will be played as curtain-raiser to the match for the Ansett Cup.

The Ansett Cup brings together the winning teams in the

NSW State Bank Cup and the Victorian Buffalo Cup, so the boys are in for a big day.

And on the way is the kick off of the NSW Youth League.

This takes place on Sunday March 15. Two 14 team divisions are involved over 13 to 16 years grades.

PHOTOS FOR ALL OCCASIONS WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS, PARTIES etc

Modern Studio

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Please contact the secretary (Tel 042 84 8271) or Treasurer (047 36 4107) immediately if such a person comes to your notice.

ADVERTISING
COACHES PLAYERS
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(02) 660 2033



The Wide World of Football



BLUES SEE RED!

GLAMOUR Scottish club GLASGOW RANGERS have the worst disciplinary record of any club in the Premier Division and possibly all of Britain. Criticism has been showered on the team that Graeme Souness built.



Despite their tarnished image the Rangers club are surging towards the title. But the success on the pitch has been marred by rumblings that the famous Ibrox club are too rough, too tough and too intimidating. That they are kicking their way to the title.

Souness, hardly bothers to react to the angry accusations, but Ibrox was up in arms on the day the club went to the top of the table for the first time in 17 months.

They were cruising to a 2-0 triumph over Hamilton in front of 44,000 fans at Ibrox when bedlam erupted in the space of three minutes.

Iron man Graham Roberts — straight out of the Souness mould, was sent-off after an incident with Hamilton striker Albert Craig. Roberts had previously been booked in the first-half.

The fuss had hardly died down when Ibrox midfielder Ian Durrant

was also dismissed for a slashing foul on the same player.

Hamilton manager John Lambie fumed: "Both Roberts and Durrant got all they deserved and I've no sympathy for them. They had to go. The referee had no option."

In the same match Terry Butcher swept in to challenge fiercely for a 50-50 ball and left Hamilton winger Bobby Barr with a broken leg in two places.

But this time Lambie defended Butcher, saying: "It was a complete accident. I saw no foul. Butcher went for the ball and not the man. It was a sound challenge."

But when Durrant made his way up the tunnel he became the sixth Rangers player to be sent-off this season — the worst record of a Premier Division club.

Sadly, player-manager

Souness, who has given the club a lavish facelift to the tune of \$5 million since the off-season break, started the ball rolling when he was ordered off against Hibernian on the first day of the League season.

Davie McPherson also saw red in the League during an off-the-ball incident with Aberdeen striker Davie Dodds at Pittodrie.

International winger Davie Cooper and left-



MICHAEL LAUDRUP

LAUDRUP LIKES LOOK OF LIVERPOOL...

DANISH and Juventus striker MICHAEL LAUDRUP has made it no secret that he wants to join champion England club Liverpool when he contract in Italy expires in two years.

In fact Laudrup has issued a "come and get me" message to the Anfield club.

When his days at Juventus are over come the end of season 1988-89, he then wants to join another Denmark ace at the Reds — Jan Molby, who is tied to the club until 1990-91.

The 22-year-old has declared: "I will see out my contract with Juventus, which runs out in two years, and then sign for Liverpool."

That is great news for the Merseyside club who lost out in a race to sign Laudrup four years ago and will soon say farewell to Ian Rush, who is headed to link up with the dazzling Dane at Juve come May.

Laudrup adds: "When my present contract ends I will have had six years in Italy, and I'd like to move on to a different country."

"England suits me fine. So does Liverpool."

Juventus initially signed Laudrup then but loaned him out to Lazio for two years as they already had their quota of foreigners in the team, notably Zibby Boniek of Poland and French ace Michel Platini.

Whilst on Platini, Juventus are keen to hold onto him for another season if the Italian FA gives the all clear for three foreigners per team at the end of this season.



OFF

OFF



SOCCER FOR AFRICA IS ON THE BALL

STEVE ARCHIBALD's plans for a Rest of the World v European Select XI, are going well.



STEVE ARCHIBALD

Says Steve: "I am working in conjunction with Argentinian entrepreneur NESTOR VARRINI, a man with world-wide contacts, to stage the game in London or Manchester for Soccer Aid for Africa."

"As well as trying to

attract the greatest players in the world, I'm also hoping to stage a pre-match seven-a-side game between English and Scottish managers."

"I hope to finalise all the arrangements in the very near future."

GOOD LUCK, ALAN

GOOD WISHES to QPR striker Alan Brazil in his last ditch battle to regain full fitness and save a career dogged by bad luck and injury since leaving Ipswich.

Burkinshaw blow

A TRAGEDY no club in this country could offer Keith Burkinshaw a job. The new manager of Sporting Lisbon, Keith helped

Spurs win the FA Cup twice and the UEFA Cup but left following a breakdown in communications with the new board of directors.

"I wanted to stay in England, but nobody wanted me. I thought there would have been one or two offers," he says.

In Brief

FRENCH Soccer Federation president **JEAN FOURNET-FAYARD** said his country will press on with its bid to host the 1998 World Cup even though it no longer has the unqualified support of FIFA president Joao Havelange of Brazil.

FORMER Brazilian World Cup star **JOAO BATISTA** has just completed a two-week trial with English Second Division side Birmingham City.

Birmingham was the third English side the 31-year-old midfielder has tried in his bid for a new club following his release by Italian club Avellino in the off-season.

The other two clubs were from the first division — Sheffield Wednesday's style was not to his liking and Aston Villa did not like him.

Third time lucky?



THE appointment of **CESAR LUIS MENOTTI** as manager of his former club Boca Juniors has set off fierce controversy in Buenos Aires.

The former Argentine national manager has signed a one-year contract worth \$160,000 plus an option for a further six months, but some Boca fans disagree so violently with Menotti's return they have tried to assault him outside the club's stadium.

Later a rock aimed at Menotti's head hurtled through his halo of cigarette smoke and smashed the window of a cafe.



MARK HUGHES has shrugged off the sensational verbal attack by Real Mallorca striker Faddi Hassan, insisting: "I'm not going to be drawn into a slanging match."

Hughes was labeled a "great lump" by Hassan, who added: "He's about as mobile as a statue. I cannot understand why Terry Venables signed him."

But the Welsh striker — nicknamed Sparky — says: "I think it is very rude to say such things about a fellow pro. He'll get my answer the next time we meet."



Belgium's World Cup skipper **JAN CEULEMANS** has received the Golden Shoe for winning the country's Footballer of the Year poll for the third time.

Cuelemans, who also captains FC Bruges, was elected by a panel of officials, referees and journalists.

AFTER a bizarre season Penarol eventually won the League title in Uruguay.

Penarol, three times declared bankrupt and twice withdrawn from the League, actually finished second — one point behind Nacional.

But, as Penarol had lost points by failing to turn up for one game, the clubs agreed to play-off for the title, which Penarol won after winning a last-gasp penalty shoot-out.

COVENTRY say they have no intention of competing with Aston Villa and Birmingham for the signature of 33-year-old **TREVOR FRANCIS** even though they tried to sign him last season.

Says coach **JOHN SILLETT**: "Trevor is nearly as old as me. **GEORGE CURTIS** and I reckon that if he can play here again, so can we!"



SIMON STAINROD is staying on the transfer list in spite of winning his place back in the Aston Villa first team recently.

"My attitude has not changed," he says. I don't think **BILLY McNEILL** sees me as part of his long term plans and that feeling increases when you see the club linked with just about every striker going."

ABERDEEN boss **IAN PORTERFIELD** is on the look out for a winger and could make a move for Sheffield United's unsettled **STEVE WIGLEY**.

It was Porterfield who signed him for United from Nottingham Forest 15 months ago.



FORMER England winger **TONY MORLEY** is set for a Football League return with Walsall.

After two years out of the country with Seiko in Hong Kong and Dutch club Den Haag, the former Aston Villa star now wants to come home.

Says Walsall boss **TOMMY COAKLEY**: "Tony would be the ideal replacement for **WILLIE NAUGHTON**, who wants to move to a club in the North."

YOU can't accuse Hull chairman **DON ROBINSON** of lacking ambition. His aims for the club?

"To win the First Division Championship and to be the first team to play on the moon!"

ALBERT KIDD, whose two goals for Dundee wrecked Hearts' Championship hopes last season, has joined Falkirk in a free transfer deal.

SOME interesting news just out of Brazil.

The FA in Pernambuco region of Brazil has decided to boost attendances with pre-match striptease shows.

However, critics fear that the girls may prove to a bigger attraction than the football, and that the fans might leave the ground before the kick-off!

ZICO turns 34 this month and he is aiming at making a comeback.

The striker, who has been plagued by a knee injury for almost a year has been in the United States for a series of operations, is now confident of resuming his career with Brazilian club Flamengo ... "and reminding people that I can play a bit and score a few goals."

STEVE CLARKE has moved from St.Mirren in Scotland to Chelsea in the English first division for \$800,000.

TOMMY CATON has joined Oxford from Arsenal for \$320,000, **RALPH MILNE** from Dundee United to Charlton for \$250,000, **MICKEY ADAMS** from Coventry City to Leeds for \$230,000 and **NEIL WOODS** from Doncaster Rovers to join Graeme Souness' Glasgow Rangers for \$200,000.



CELTIC boss **DAVID HAY** has revealed that he turned down a \$100,000 a year offer to leave Parkhead this season.

Although Hay refuses to identify the club who tried to lure him away, don't be too surprised if it was Hibernian, who were looking for a big name to succeed **JOHN BLACKLEY** and eventually settled for **ALEX MILLER**.

But Hay's loyalty to Celtic has been rewarded. He was recently awarded a pay rise by the board of directors.

FORMER ENGLAND STRIKER JIMMY GREAVES SAYS...

ON Michel Platini playing in England ... **MICHEL PLATINI** would last about six games in the First Division.

Physically, he's way past his prime, and old crocks soon get found out by the pace and toughness of the English game.



ZICO gives the thumbs up sign following his knee operation.

I'm sure Kenny Dalglish won't supply Platini with one last pay day.



ON West Ham's Tony Cottee playing for England in preference to Peter Beardsley ... I don't know if Cottee is a better player than Beardsley, but he is a better goalscorer and it won't be long before he's given the opportunity to shine.

But I don't think the two should be rivals for an England shirt. There is room for both in the team.

ON the deluge of transfers at Chelsea ... The situation at Stamford Bridge has got out of control and now is the time for decisive action from Ken Bates.

Either he sacks John Hollins or makes it crystal clear that he is standing by him.

They must get rid of all those players seeking a move as soon as possible. They are no use to the club. Those who are staying must be forced to change their attitude."

FORMER Tottenham 'supersub' **GARY BROOKE** is to try his luck in Holland with first division club Gronigen, who did so well in the UEFA Cup this season.

Brooke is a remarkable footballer. He almost died from multiple internal injuries after a car crash when he was 22.

But he made a miraculous recovery to play with Spurs before his move to Norwich.

Gary was on a life-support unit in intensive care after the smash, but now at 26 he is opening a new chapter of his career — with the good wishes of Norwich boss Ken Brown.

THE SPANISH FA banned a referee for a month after watching videos of his handling of Barcelona's fiery match with Valladolid.

Senor Jose Socorro didn't even award a foul when Juan Torrecilla smashed Spanish international Julio Alberto's leg so badly it needed metal pins in a three-hour operation.

The Spanish FA were forced to move after allegations from the Catalan club that there was a conspiracy among referees and the game's administrators to make sure the First Division title didn't return to the Nou Camp.



JOHN ALDRIDGE in action during his final days at Oxford.

BARNES BACK WHERE HE BELONGS?

MANCHESTER CITY's prodigal son has returned home. PETER BARNES, is back at Maine Road where his career kicked off.

And Barnes doesn't hold back on his displeasure at being allowed to leave in the first place.

"I will never forgive the man who allowed me to go in the first place," he stated.

Barnes, then just 22 and an established England winger, was one of the stars sacrificed in Malcolm Allison's 1979 player-purge.

Barnes says today: "In the years since, there has never been a moment when I didn't regret leaving City."

"I had started at the club as a 17-year-old and two years later I was in the England team."

"It seemed that nothing could go wrong for me just so long as I kept playing well. But then Malcolm Allison returned to Maine Road."

"It seemed he only wanted youngsters who would be 'yes' men, guys who wouldn't answer him back and question

his theories on how the game should be played."

"I recall at the time we had a team of virtual internationals who took the club into Europe regularly. Yet he decided to tear the team apart. Out went the likes of Asa Hartford, Brian Kidd, Davie Watson, Gary Owen and myself."

"I couldn't believe it when Malcolm told me he was going to sell me to West Brom for \$1.3 million."

"City had been offered cash for me and big-spending Malcolm had ideas on how he wanted to splash it around," said Barnes.

Barnes looks back on his career since to say: "I don't think I have done too badly. I enjoyed my stint under Ron Atkinson at West Brom and that's one of the reasons I was happy to come back to Manchester with United when Ron approached me."

"Leeds United didn't suit me, then a spell in Spain with Real Betis followed by a stint at Coventry."

Barnes next joined Manchester United in 1985 but after losing his place to Jesper Olsen earlier this season he embarked on his second term with City after Jimmy Frizzell splashed out \$60,000 for the 29-year-old winger.



JESPER OLSEN

WALSH WARNS NEW BOY

"HANDS OFF MY SHIRT!"

PAUL WALSH has some disturbing news for Liverpool's \$1.5m new boy from Oxford — JOHN ALDRIDGE.

Walsh has been under fire recently for a shortage of goals and in some quarters has been the subject of transfer talk.

Says the former Luton golden boy: "John Aldridge has got to realise he won't get my place in the team that easily."

"He'll have to fight like hell for it because there is no doubt in my mind that while I'm playing well in a winning team

I stay in. John shouldn't forget Liverpool spent a similar sum on me two and half years ago."

"I want to tell him that all his speculation about me leaving Liverpool is rubbish — why would anyone want to leave the best club in Britain?"

"The speculation about me leaving Liverpool got on my nerves. Just because I've had a dry run in front of goal and the boss hasn't been playing me much, people have put two and two together and come up with five."

The truth is that Walsh has more than a year left on his present contract,

and he is determined to prove his worth in the meantime, in search of a new deal at Anfield.

Walsh even refuses to use the excuse of a back injury handicapping his hunt for goals in recent weeks, but he is quick to put that dry spell into perspective.

"The ball just wouldn't go in for me, but I tried not to let it affect me."

"I reckon that if I keep producing performances like that — yet don't score again this season — then I will stay in the team, so long as Liverpool are going well."

WILKINS BACK TO WHERE HE STARTED

THERE is a distinct possibility that England international RAY WILKINS could be thrown a lifeline by his first club Chelsea.

Wilkins will be discarded by his Italian club



RAY WILKINS

AC MILAN at the end of this current season.

The 30-year-old midfielder man is furious that AC have been trying to sign Dutchman RUUD GULLIT as his replacement without letting him know.

Now Wilkins has decided to come back to England at the end of the season and a return to Stamford Bridge could well be on the cards.

Manager JOHN HOLLINS, reeling under a deluge of transfer requests, wants a big-name signing to keep the fans happy.

Wilkins spent six happy years at Chelsea and became the youngest captain in the club's history when he led the side out at 18.

A move to Manchester United in 1979 and his subsequent transfer to Italy did nothing to diminish Wilkins' affection for the club.

An offer of a player-coach's position may well be in the pipeline, particularly as a number of the unsettled players are unhappy with current coach ERNIE WALLEY.



PETER BARNES



PAUL WALSH (right) with Ian Rush. He's keeping John Aldridge in his sights.

NEALE COOPER, A TACKLING TIGER!

FOR Aston Villa fans and players the wait has been worth it — Neale Cooper is a hit.

The tough tackling midfielder joined Villa from Aberdeen for \$700,000 in the summer but a groin injury ruled him out until the New Year.

A goalless draw at home to Nottingham Forest on January 3 marked the end of Cooper's wait and made him an instant hit with his teammates.

His midfield partner Steve Hunt claims: "I haven't seen anybody tackle so well for a long time."

"When Neale is in the side he controls the middle of the park and that allows me to get forward more."

Cooper, whose biting tackles gave him a hard-man image North of the border, certainly has a crucial role to play as his club battle against relegation. But he is full of confidence for their future.

"We've got some terrific players here and I'm sure we will pull away from trouble."



NEALE COOPER — the heart of Villa's midfield.